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Geographical

Robert Nogg—

DESCRIPTION

OF

THE COUNTY

OF

Norfolk.

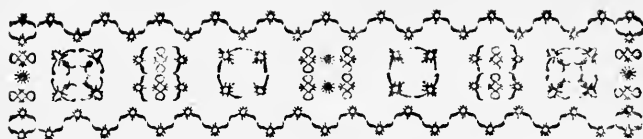
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NORWICH:

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Geographical and Historical Description

OF THE

COUNTY of NORFOLK.

Situation and Extent.

THE county of Norfolk, exclusive of the city and county of Norwich, is divided into thirty-three hundreds, in which are upwards of seven hundred parishes, towns, besides hamlets, &c.

It is situated, according to Sir Henry Spelman's *Index Villaris*, between $52^{\circ} 28'$ and $53^{\circ} 3'$ of north latitude, and between $1^{\circ} 13'$ and $1^{\circ} 42'$ of east longitude; being precisely sixty-six miles in extent from the meridian of *Yarmouth* to that of *Wisbech*, and about forty miles in breadth from the parallel of *Billingford* to that of *Wells*. Mr. Templeman, in his very ingenious, but inaccurate survey, states the length of this county to be only fifty-seven miles, and its breadth thirty-five, and that it con-

tains 1426 square miles: But the productions of most general geographers are “ errors multiplied by errors.”

The county of Norfolk, or the *Northern-Folk**, is so called with respect to Suffolk, or the *Southern-Folk*, which, with part of Cambridge-shire, composed the Roman province of *Iceni*, and Saxon kingdom of *East-Anglia*. It is a maritime county, bounded on the north by the British ocean, called (tho’ very improperly) the *German ocean*, which washes a shore of one hundred miles, from *Yarmouth* to the coast of Lincolnshire. On the south this county is divided from Suffolk by the rivers *Waveney* and *Little Ouse*, from *Yarmouth haven* to near *Littleport*, about seventy-four miles; from whence it is bounded by the *Isle of Ely* in Cambridge-shire, to *Gunthorpe-fluice*, (an irregular course of thirty-seven miles) where *Holland*, in the county of Lincoln, has the *Cross-keys Wash* between it and Norfolk. The whole county may be about two hundred and ten miles in circumference; and, with respect to the general situation of the kingdom, is accounted “ in the East of England;” the centre of the county, *East Dereham*, bearing a little S. of the E. from the centre of England, and North-nor-east from London, —distant ninety-four miles. In Norfolk are, one city and four boroughs, besides twenty market-towns, and many considerable villages which formerly had markets, now in disuse.

To the following alphabetical list of the HUNDREDS in the county of Norfolk, we add the number of PARISHES in each;—the GENERAL COUNTY-RATE at a six-hundred pound levy;—and the number of VOTES polled at the contested election for Knights of the Shire, March 23, 1768;

* In Latin, *Borealis Populus*, or the Northern people; in the Saxon, *NORFOLG*.

1768; Sir Armine Wodehouse, bart. of Kimberley, Thomas de-Grey, Esq. of Merton, Sir Edward Ashley, bart. of Melton-Constable, and Wenman Coke, Esq. of Holkham, being Candidates.

Hundreds.	Parishes.	General Rate.			Poll.
Blofield - -	19	£. 9	16	0	110
Brothercross - -	10	9	0	0	121
Clackclofe - -	34	30	3	0	463
Clavering - -	20	19	4	6	181
Depwade - -	22	23	11	6	230
Diss - -	16	17	5	0	245
Earsham - -	15	19	19	6	279
Erpingham, North -	32	22	3	0	275
Erpingham, South -	39	29	6	0	350
Eynsford - -	31	24	18	6	312
Flegg, East - -	12	7	14	0*	994
Flegg, West - -	14	8	13	0	119
Forehoe - -	24	24	18	3	412
Freebridge-Lynn -	36	27	12	0†	647
Freebridge-Marshland	16	17	9	3	190
Gallow - -	34	18	1	6	203
Greenhoe, North, -	16	17	10	0	354
Greenhoe, South -	24	21	3	9	216
Grimshoe - -	17	15	4	9	247
Gultercross - -	12	12	3	3	212
Happing - -	17	13	9	6	204
Henstead - -	21	11	18	9	127
Holt - -	28	18	9	6	409
Humbleyard - -	18	13	19	0	100
Launditch - -	35	26	19	0	391
Loddon - -	21	19	12	0	181
Mitford - -	18	20	9	6	386
Shropham - -	22	20	8	3‡	435
Smithdon - -	13	17	10	3	213
Taverham - -	19	12	3	0	144
Tunstead - -	25	12	12	6	323
Walsham - -	15	12	18	0	164
Wayland - -	16	14	13	0	227
City and county of } Norwich - }	38				614

Total	754	600	0	0
Votes polled by freeholders not residing in the county, and uncertainties	-	-	-	821

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Total 11021

* Yarmouth, † Lynn-Reg's, ‡ Thetford,---not assessed to this rate.

The whole county pays to the land-tax 82,552l. 15s. 5d. and to the poor-rate 83,739l. 4s. 1cd.

This county, says a late describer, “ is large and populous, extending from east to west full fifty miles, but from south to north not above thirty, and containing in circumference about 140 miles. In these are reckoned 1,148,000 acres, 47,180 houses, thirty-two market-towns, and a great number of well-inhabited villages. Mr. Camden, indeed, gives but twenty-seven market-towns, and 625 villages* ; but, from the rate-books of the taxes at the Revolution, it appears that the villages are 711, and the market-towns, including the city and boroughs, thirty-two. The writer of the *English Gazetteer* says, “ there are in Norfolk 283,000 inhabitants, and that the area is 1426 square miles ;” and the *English Traveller*, published in 1772, tells us, the length and breadth of the county is but twenty miles by twenty-nine, and that it has 660 villages, and thirty-two market-towns, the whole circumference being 130 miles. But, from authorities of this nature, the reader is mis-lead in the first instance, and confounded in the second, third, &c. *ad infinitum* : And this we more readily grant, since WE, even we ! who have made a personal scrutiny in *toto*, and in *partibus*, cannot determine the exact number of towns or parishes :—Nay, the precise number of market-towns is yet a doubtful matter.

By the bishop’s register, we find there are more than 800 single, consolidated and dilapidated church-benefices in Norfolk ; and, by the list of villages prefixed to each hundred in this history, we find that what are *now called*

TOWNS

* There are, says Camden, 660 parish-churches in this county.

TOWNS amount to 716:—the index to the *poll-book* published in 1768, makes them 729, exclusive of the city and hamlets of Norwich.

The Names and Number of Towns, having Markets, are as follow:

Attleburgh	Loddon
Aylsham	Lynn-Regis
Buckenham, New	NORWICH
Burnham-Westgate	Reepham
Dereham, East	Swaffham
Diss	Thetford
Downham	Walsham, North
Fakenham	Walsingham
Harleston	Watton
Harling, East	Wells
Hingham	Wymondham
Holt	Yarmouth

Besides which are many others, as Acle, Castle-Rising, Cawston, Cley, Cromer, Docking, Litcham, Methwold, Worstead, &c. now in disuse:—Indeed, few lordships in the county but had a *market* granted, though this, we imagine, to have been only a *liberty* to buy and sell.

The county of Norfolk is, in shape, of an oval form, and so surrounded by water, that, except a small meadow near Lopham, it is an *island* of itself. [For a description of its ancient and present state; its ecclesiastic, civil, and military government; roads, rivers, customs, produce, commerce, &c. we refer our readers to the particular head under which they are classed.]

Ecclesiastic Government.

The **DIOCESE** of **Norwich** comprehends the counties of **Norfolk** and **Suffolk**, and a few parishes in **Cambridgeshire**, excepting **Emneth** in **Freebridge-Marshland**, which belongs to the bishopric of **Ely**; **Hadleigh**, **Monks-Illeigh**, and **Moulton**, in **Suffolk**, as peculiars to the **Archbishop** of **Canterbury**, and **Frekenham** to the see of **Rocheſter**.

It is divided into four **ARCHDEACONRIES**, and thoſe ſubdivided into **DEANRIES**, **PARISHES**, parochial benefices, and mediocities.

<i>Archdeaconries.</i>		<i>Deanries.</i>	<i>Parishes, &c.</i>
Norwich	- -	13	365
Norfolk	- -	12	468
Sudbury	- -	8	} 523
Suffolk	- -	14	

ARCHDEACONRY of NORWICH.

<i>Deanries.</i>		<i>Parishes, &c.</i>
Blofield	- - -	34
Breckles	- - -	17
Brisley	- - -	32
Flegg	- - -	28
Holt	- - -	30
Ingworth	- - -	39
Lynn	- - -	62
Norwich	- - -	36
Sparham	- - -	33
Taverham	- - -	18
Thetford	- - -	6
Toftrees	- - -	12
Walsingham	- - -	18

ARCH

ARCHDEACONRY of NORFOLK.

<i>Deanries.</i>			<i>Parishes, &c.</i>
Brooke	-	-	72
Burnham	-	-	37
Cranwich	-	-	46
Depwade	-	-	25
Fincham	-	-	40
Hingham	-	-	48
Hitcham	-	-	21
Humbleyard	-	-	29
Redenhall	-	-	31
Repps	-	-	32
Rockland	-	-	41
Waxton	-	-	46

In the Archdeaconry of SUDBURY are eight Deanries, viz.

Blackbourn	Stow
Clare	Sudbury
Fordham	Thedwastre
Hartesmere	Thingoe

The Archdeaconry of SUFFOLK has fourteen Deanries, viz.

Bosmere	Loes
Carlford	Lothingland
Claydon	Orford
Colneis	Samford
Dunwich	South Elmham
Hoxne	Wangford
Ipswich	Willford

The ecclesiastical government of this diocese is in the bishop of Norwich, assisted by the four Archdeacons, the Dean and Chapter, Chancellor, &c. at whose respective offices business is done.

St. Felix, a Burgundian priest, who landed at Bawlingley in Norfolk, and converted the kingdom of the East-Angles to Christianity, first placed his see at Dunwich about the year 630. In 673 Bifus, the fourth Bishop, divided the diocese, continuing one at *Dunwich*, who had jurisdiction over Suffolk, and settled the other at *North Elmham*, whose pastoral care was confined to Norfolk. About 870 the sees were united, and the Bishop's residence fixed at Elmham. In 1075 the see was removed to *Thetford*, and so continued till 1094, when it was finally fixed at *Norwich*; and the Right Rev. Father in God, Philip Yonge, the present Lord Bishop of Norwich, is the fifty-eighth from Herbert Lozinga, who first removed the see from Thetford, and founded the Cathedral church of Norwich.—This first Bishop of Norwich* was extremely rich and powerful, being Lord High-Chancellor of England; as were also many of his successors.

The Diocesan had but one Archdeacon till about the year 1124, when the Archdeaconry of Norfolk was created; that of Sudbury in 1126, Suffolk in 1127, and Norwich in 1200.—The History of Norwich, (to which we refer our readers for further particulars of this bishopric) states the number of parish-churches and chapels in the diocese to be 1353, besides four peculiars; 800 of which are in Norfolk, 537 in Suffolk, and 16 in Cambridge-shire†. This diocese is in the province of Canterbury, and consequently the bishop a suffragan to the Metropolitan or Archbishop. The Bishops of Norwich sit in the House of Peers

* Herbert, surnamed Lozinga. Camden says LEASUNG in the Saxon signifies a lye, or trick;—and this appellation he acquired by his simoniacal practices.

† Spelman, in his *VILLARE ANGLICUM*, tells us, that the county of Norfolk hath 660 parishes, and that the Diocese of Norwich contains 1121 parishes. Another writer pretends to account for 160 vicarages in Norfolk.

Peers as Abbot of Holme*; have their palace or chief residence at Norwich, and the fee is charged in the King's books at 834l. 11s. 7d. The author of the *Great Historical, Geographical and Poetical Dictionary* values it at 899l. 17s. 7d. besides the tenth of the whole Clergy, which amounts to 11,117l. 13s.

From the *Register* in the Bishop's-office we have the following memorandum: "Total of Papists in the diocese of Norwich is 1279, and in all England and Wales 67,916, as appears by returns made upon enquiry in 1767."

"The number of established Clergy resident within the diocese of Norwich, as calculated in the year 1772, is as follows, viz.

Of the beneficed Clergy, about 550

Curates not beneficed, about - 150

And the annual amount of the revenues of the church, within the said diocese, (exclusive of the Bishopric) is estimated at * * * * *."

Civil Government.

The civil government of the county is in the High-Sheriff for the time being. He is annually appointed by the King, and presides at the assizes†, and other county-meetings. The Lent Assizes are held at Thetford in March, and the Summer Assizes at Norwich in August.

E

Before

* The Bishop of Norwich is the only Abbot in England, and now sits in Parliament by virtue of the Barony of Holme-Abbey, the Barony formerly belonging to the Bishopric, it being in the Crown. --N. B. Holme was a mitred Abbey, and as such its Abbots always sat in Parliament.

† ASSIZES, assise, (affectio) anciently signified in general, a court where the Judges or Assessors heard and determined causes. The Judges in their circuits have a commission of assize directed to them, to which is now added commissions of general gaol-delivery, of oyer and terminer,

Before the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk had each of them a separate High-Sheriff, the usage was for the Crown to appoint one year out of the Gentlemen of Norfolk, and the next out of Suffolk, and so on alternately, as is the custom now in Cambridge and Huntingdon-shire. The separation took place in the 18th of Elizabeth, 1576, from which time till the 2d of Charles I. 1626, we do not find any regular list of High-Sheriffs.

A correct List of the High-Sheriffs for the County of Norfolk, from the 2d Year of the Reign of Charles the First to the present Time.

CHARLES the FIRST.

- 1626 Thomas Holl, esq. *Heigham by Norwich*
- 1627 Sir Charles le Gros, knt. *Croftwick*
- 1628 Framlingham Gaudy, esq. *Crows-hall in Debenham*
- 1629 Sir Robert Gaudy, knt. *West Harling*
- 1630 Sir Roger Townshend, bart. *Rainham*
- 1631 Francis Mapes, esq. *Rollesty*
- 1632 Thomas Pettus, esq. *Rackbeath*
- 1633 Sir John Hobart, knt. and bart. *Intwood*
- 1634 William Heveningham, esq. *Ketteringham*
- 1635 Sir John Wentworth, knt. *Nettlestead, Suffolk*
- 1636 Sir Edward Barkham, knt. and bart. *West-acre*
- 1637 William Paston, esq. *Oxnead*
- 1638 Sir Francis Astley, bart. *Melton-Constable, died*
 John Buxton, esq. *Tibbenham, succeeded*
- 1639 Augustine Holl, esq. *Heigham by Norwich*
- 1640 Thomas Windham, esq. *Felbrigg*

1641

of nisi prius, and of the peace. By the precept for the general gaol delivery, the Sheriff, Under-Sheriff, Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Coroners, Escheators, Stewards, and all Chief-Constables and Bailiffs of hundreds and liberties are commanded to attend,

- 1641 Robert Longe, esq. *Reymerston*
- 1642 Sir Thomas Guybon, knt. *Thursford*
- 1643 James Calthorpe, esq. *East Barsham*
- 1644 John Coke, esq. *Godwick*
- 1645 Sir Valentine Pell, knt. *Derfingham*
- 1646 Sir Isaac Astley, knt. and bart. *Melton-Constable*
- 1647 Thomas Berney, esq. *Reedham*
- 1648 William Coke, esq. *Godwick*.

CHARLES the SECOND.

- 1649 Gregory Gawfell, esq. *Watlington*
- 1650 Hugh Audley, esq. *Old Buckenham*
- 1651 Sir Ralph Hare, bart. *Stow-Bardolph*
- 1652 Charles Garneys, esq. *Mourning-Thorpe*
- 1653 Thomas Wright, esq. *Kilwerstone, died*
Sir Edward Astley, bart. *Melton-Constable, succeeded*
- 1654 John Earle, esq. *Heydon*
- 1655 Sir Arthur Jenny, knt. *Knattishall, in Suffolk*
- 1656 Edward Ward, esq. *Postwick*
- 1657 Edward Ward, esq. *Postwick*
- 1658 John Sidley, esq. *Merley*
- 1659 John Cremer, esq. *Ingoldesthorpe*
- 1660 Sir John Cremer, knt. *Ingoldesthorpe*
- 1661 Robert Suckling, esq. *Woodton*
- 1662 Richard Berney, esq. *Reedham*
- 1663 Sir Thomas Meadows, knt. *Great Yarmouth*
- 1664 Sir Jacob Astley, knt. and bart. *Melton-Constable*
- 1665 Sir Thomas Pettus, bart. *Rackheath*
- 1666 Sir John Hobart, bart. *Blickling*
- 1667 Hatton Berners, esq. *Lynn-Regis*
- 1668 Sir Edward Barkham, bart. *West-acre*
- 1669 Sir Robert Vyner, knt. and bart. *London*
- 1670 Richard Berney, esq. *Kirby-Bedon*

- 1671 Robert Cony, esq. *Walpole St. Peter*
- 1672 John Mann, esq. *Norwich*
- 1673 Sir William Adams, bart. *Sprowston*
- 1674 Thomas Bishop, esq. *Ipswich, in Suffolk*
- 1675 Elisha Philipppo, esq. *Norwich*
- 1676 John Pell, esq. *Derfingham*
- 1677 Christopher Layer, esq. *Beeton*
- 1678 Thomas Pierſon, esq. *Wiſbech, in Cambridgeſhire*
- 1679 John Jay, esq. *Holweſton*
- 1680 Philip Harbord, esq. *Stanningball*
- 1681 Thomas Bransby, esq. *Shettisbam*
- 1682 John Knevet, esq. *Aſbach:herpe*
- 1683 John Greene, esq. *Willy*
- 1684 Henry Shelton, esq. *Shelton.*

J A M E S the S E C O N D.

- 1685 Sir Francis Guybon, knt. *Thurſford*
- 1686 Sir Robert Nightingale, knt. *North Burlingham*
- 1687 John Harbord, esq. *Guntton*
- 1688 Thomas Seaman, esq. *Norwich.*

W I L L I A M and M A R Y.

- 1689 John Hierne, esq. *Armingball*
- 1690 Eraſmus Earle, esq. *Heyden*
- 1691 Sir Auguſtine Palgrave, bart. *North Burlingham.*
- 1692 Richard Berney, esq. *Reedham*
- 1693 John Burkin, esq. *North Burlingham*
- 1694 Sir Charles Adams, bart. *Sprowſton.*

W I L L I A M the T H I R D.

- 1695 Francis Windham, esq. *Cremor*
- 1696 Sir James Edwards, bart. *Reedham*
- 1697 Robert Doughty, esq. *Hanworth*

- 1698 Richard Maſon, eſq. *Neſton*
 1699 Matthew Long, eſq. *Dunſton*
 1700 Edward Lombe, eſq. *Weſton*
 1701 Robert Suckling, eſq. *Woodton*.

Queen A N N E.

- 1702 William Newman, eſq. *Baconſthorpe*
 1703 Roger Crowe, eſq. *Norwich*
 1704 Richard Knights, eſq. *Attlebridge*.
 1705 James Hoſte, eſq. *Sandringham*
 1706 Richard Daſhwood, eſq. *Cockley-Cley*
 1707 Beaupre Bell, eſq. *Outwell*
 1708 Henry Framingham, eſq. *Burnham*
 1709 Henry Heron, eſq. *Ketteringham*
 1710 Sir Peter Seaman, knt. *Norwich*
 1711 John Fowle, eſq. *Broome*
 1712 James Harcourt, eſq. *Carleton by Norwich*
 1713 Thomas Wright, eſq. *East Harling*
 1714 Edward Lombe, eſq. *Great Melton*.

G E O R G E the F I R S T.

- 1715 Thomas Durrant, eſq. *Scotton*
 1716 Thomas Rogers, eſq. *Derſingham*, died
 Thomas Rogers, eſq. jun. *Derſingham*, ſucceeded
 1717 William Berners, eſq. *Lynn-Regis*
 1718 John Howes, eſq. *Mourning-Thorpe*
 1719 John Colman, eſq. *Broome*
 1720 Peter Elwin, eſq. *Tottington*
 1721 Nathaniel Life, eſq. *Swaffham*
 1722 William Rootley, eſq. *Weſt Barſham*
 1723 Greſham Page, eſq. *Saxthorpe*
 1724 Robert Clough, eſq. *Feltwell*
 1725 Richard Whitaker, eſq. *Matlaſk*

- 1726 Rice Wigget, esq. *Geistwick*
 1727 Roger Pratt, esq. *West Russon*.

GEORGE the SECOND.

- 1728 John Bedingfield, esq. *Beefton St. Andrew*
 1729 Cyril Wych, esq. *Hockwold cum Wilton*
 1730 Richard Tubby, esq. *Brockdish*
 1731 Thomas Cooper, esq. *North Walsbam*
 1732 John Wilfon, esq. *Stanhoe*
 1733 William Helwys, esq. *Merton*
 1734 Edwin Cony, esq. *Houghton by Walsingham*
 1735 George Smith, esq. *Topcroft*
 1736 William Henry Fleming, esq. *Watten*
 1737 Peter Rosier, esq. *Pulham*
 1738 Thomas Bell, esq. *Oulton*
 1739 John Parr, esq. *Salthouse*
 1740* Henry Negus, esq. *Howeton St. Peter*
 1741 James Mackarel, esq. *Ringland*
 1742 John Thurston, esq. *Barwick*
 1743 Edward Atkyns, esq. *Ketteringham*
 1744* Peter Barret, esq. *Herstead*
 1745 Barry Love, esq. *Ormesby*
 1746 Sir Horatio Pettus, bart. *Rackbeath*
 1747 Charles Cooper Morley, esq. *East Barfelm*
 1748 William Jermy, esq. *Bayfield*
 1749 Thomas Sotherton, esq. *Taverham*
 1750 Leonard Mapes, esq. *Rolleby*
 1751 Robert Knopwood, esq. *Threxton*
 1752 Francis Longe, esq. *Spixworth*
 1753 Hamilton Custance, esq. *Weston*
 1754 Cotton Symonds, esq. *Ormesby*
 1755 Miles Branthwayte, esq. *Attlebridge*
 1756 John Barker, esq. *Shropham, died*
 *Philip Bedingfield, esq. *Ditchingham, succeeded*

- 1757 Israel Longe, esq. *Dunston*
 1758 Hammond Alpe, esq. *Little Fransham*
 1759 Richard Fuller, esq. *Whetacre-Burgb*
 1760* John Berney, esq. *Bracon-Ash*.

GEORGE the THIRD.

- 1761 William Churchman, esq. *Mangretn*
 1762 Sir Hanson Berney, bart. *Kirby-Bedon*
 1763* Sir Edward Asfley, bart. *Melton-Constable*
 1764 John Davis, esq. *Watlington*
 1765* William Wigget Bulwer, esq. *Wood-Dalling*
 1766 John Norris, esq. *Great Witchingham*
 1767* Crisp Molineux, esq. *Garboldisham*
 1768* William Woodley, esq. *Eccles*
 1769* Edmund Rolfe, (the younger) esq. *Heacham*
 1770* John Micklethwaite, esq. *Beeefson St. Andrew*
 1771* James Smyth, esq. *Topcroft*
 1772* John Lombe, Esq. *Great Melton*
 1773* Edward Hafe, Esq. *Salle*
 1774 Thomas Lobb Chute, Esq. *South Pickenham*
 1775* Brigg Price Fountain, Esq. *Narford*
 1776* Nicolas Styleman, esq. *Snettisham*
 1777* Charles Garneys, esq. *Hedenham*
 1778* Sir Henry Peyton, bart. *Narborough*
 1779* John Berney Petre, esq. *Westwick*
 1780* Sir Thomas Beauchamp Proctor, bart. *Langley*
 1781* Robert Lee Doughty, esq. *Han-worth*.

N. B. Those Gentlemen marked with an asterisk * are now living, 1781.

The chief Officers of the county at this time, 1781, are,

Lord Lieutenant, Vice-Admiral, and Custos Rotulorum,

The Right Hon. GEORGE Earl of OXFORD.

High-

Higb-Sheriff,

ROBERT LEE DOUGHTY, Esq. of Hanworth.

Under-Sheriff,

Mr. JOHN ADEY, of Aylsham.

Clerk of the Peace,

PETER FINCH, Esq. of Norwich.

Receiver-general of the Land-Tax,

ROGER KERRISON, Esq. Alderman of Norwich, and

WILLIAM FISHER, Esq. of Great Yarmouth.

Receiver of the Stamp-duty,

JOHN GAY, Esq. Alderman of Norwich.

Coroners for the County,

CAPEL BRINGLOE of Hingham, and RICHARD EATON
of Bracondale-hill, Gents.

Coroner for the Liberty of the Dutchy of Lancaster,

JAMES SMYTH, Gent. of Norwich.

Coroner for the Liberty of the Duke of Norfolk,

THOMAS DOVE, Gent. of Kenninghall.

At the time when Alfred divided the kingdom into counties, hundreds, &c. he instituted great and petty Officers for the regulation and good government of his people, as well as for carrying into execution that excellent body of laws formed by him, which, though now lost, is generally esteemed the origin of *common law*.

The hundreds were divided into tythings, or dwellings of ten householders. Every *householder* was answerable to the king for the good behaviour of his family, his servants, and even of his guests, provided they continued with him above three days. A *tything-man*, *headborough*, or *berhsolder* presided over each tything; and all the ten
householders

householders were mutually pledges for each other. If any person in the tything was suspected of an offence, he was imprisoned unless the headborough gave security for him. If he made his escape either before or after finding sureties, the headborough became liable to enquiry, and if the escape was made in consequence of any neglect, exposed to the penalties of the law. Any person who refused to enter himself into one of these tythings, was deemed an outlaw, and put to death. Nor could any one be received into a different tything, without producing a certificate from that to which he before belonged. By this institution every man was obliged by his own interest, to keep a watchful eye over the conduct of his neighbours, and was, in some measure, surety for the behaviour of those, who were placed under the division to which he belonged.

“ This plan for the administration of justice was truly admirable. The headborough summoned together his whole tything to assist him in deciding any lesser differences, which occurred among the members of this small community. In affairs of greater moment, in appeals from the tything, or in controversies arising between members of different tythings, the cause was brought before the hundred, which consisted of ten tythings, or an hundred families of freemen, and which was regularly assembled once in four weeks, for the deciding of causes. Their method of decision deserves to be remembered, because it was the origin of that great privilege peculiar to Englishmen, *of being tried by a jury of their own Peers*. Twelve freeholders were chosen, who being sworn, together with the *hundreder*, or presiding magistrate of that division, to administer impartial justice, proceeded to the examination of that cause, which was submitted to their jurisdiction.

And besides these monthly meetings of the hundred, there was an annual meeting appointed for a more general inspection of the police of the district; the enquiry into crimes, the correction of abuses in magistrates, and the obliging every person to shew the tything in which he was registered.

“ The court immediately superior to that of the hundred was the county-court, which met twice a year, after Michaelmas and Easter, and consisted of all the freeholders in the county, who possessed an equal vote in the decision of causes. The Bishop presided in this court, together with the *Eorlderman*. Appeals lay to this court from those of the hundreds and tythings. And here also such controversies as arose between men of different hundreds were decided. The *Eorlderman** formerly possessed both the civil and military authority; but Alfred, sensible that this coalition of powers rendered the nobility dangerous and independent, appointed a Sheriff in each county; who enjoyed an equal authority with the former in his judicial capacity. His office also empowered him to guard the rights of the Crown in the county; and to levy the fines imposed, and other services of a similar nature.

“ From all these courts an appeal lay to the King himself in council; and as the people, sensible of the equity and great talents of Alfred, placed their chief confidence in him, he was soon overwhelmed with appeals from all parts of England. He was indefatigable in the dispatch of these causes; but finding that his time must be entirely engrossed by this branch of his duty, he resolved to obviate the inconvenience by correcting the ignorance or corruption of the inferior magistrates, from whence it arose.

Accordingly,

* Much in the nature of our Lord Lieutenant,

Accordingly, he took care to have his nobility instructed in the laws; he chose his Earls and Sheriffs from among the persons most celebrated for knowledge and probity; he punished several for malversation in office; and removed every person from his post, as soon as ever he discovered him deficient either in abilities, or veracity."

Tythingmen, borsholders, and headboroughs, answer to our constable, and other peace officers of like degree. Over these are constables of hundreds and franchises, first ordained by Edward I. 13, *anno* 1285; two to be chose in each hundred and franchise. These are what we now call *constabularii capitales*, or high-constables.—The appointment of a petty-constable belongs to the lords of divers manors, *jure feudi*. The hundreder, or chief-magistrate of ten tythings seems to have possessed a power of deciding on local matters like unto our Justices of the Peace, who were known in the 4th of Edward III. as *Conservators*, or, *Wardens of the Peace*. They were formally instituted in 1344, and their power enlarged and settled as at present, *anno* 1590. Justices of the Peace are generally persons of interest and credit, nominated by the Custos Rotulorum of a county by virtue of the King's commission. Of these, some are of the *quorum*, as without them no business of importance may be dispatched.

Superior to the tythings and hundred-courts was the county-court, first established in 896, over which the High-Sheriff now presides; though, before him, the Bishop and Eorlderman had the power and direction of all civil affairs. The Sheriff, or *Shire-reve*, (*vice-comes*) was anciently chose by the people in the county-court; but he is now appointed by the king; in order to which the Itinerant Judges every year nominate six persons for each county,

whereof the Lord Chancellor, the Privy-council, &c. assembled in the Exchequer-chamber, make choice of three; out of which number the King chuses one. He serves for one year, and, besides his ministerial office, has a judicial office, whereby he holds two several kinds of courts; the one called the *Sheriff's turn*, held in divers places in the county, to enquire of all offences against common law not prohibited by any statute:—The other is called the *County-court*, wherein he hears and determines all civil causes of the county under forty shillings. He executes the King's orders, and is to attend and assist the Itinerant Judges.

The county of Norfolk is represented in Parliament by two Knights, two Citizens, and eight Burghesses; it pays twenty-two parts of the land-tax, yet has but twelve delegates to dispose of it, whilst Cornwall has forty-four, yet contributes but eight parts. Scotland pays little more than half as much of the land-tax as Norfolk, yet sends forty-five Members to Parliament. Essex pays twice the amount of Scotland, and sends only eight. Middlesex has eight Representatives, yet raises ten times the land-tax revenue of Cornwall.—It is much to be wished that representation bore some *proportion* to taxation!!!

KNIGHTS of SHIRE for the COUNTY of NORFOLK,
with the number of Votes polled at each contested Election.

1708	Sir John Holland, Bart. Quidenham	
	Ash Wyndham, Esq. Felbrigg	
1710, Oct. 11,	Sir John Wodehouse, Bt. Kimberley	3217
	Sir Jacob Astley, Bart. Melton-	
	Constable	- - 3200
	Ash Wyndham, Esq. Felbrigg	- 2783
	Robert Walpole, Esq. Houghton	2397
		1715, Feb.

1715, Feb. 18,	Thomas de Grey, Esq. Merton	-	3183
	Sir Jacob Astley, Bart. Melton-		
	Constable	- - -	3059
	Sir Ralph Hare, Bt. Stow-Bardolph		2840
	Erasmus Earle, Esq. Heydon	-	2635
1722	Sir John Hobart, Bart. Blickling		
	Thomas Coke, Esq. Holkham		
1727	Sir Edmund Bacon, P. Bart. Gar-		
	boldisham		
	Harbord Harbord, Esq. Gunton		
1734, May 22,	Sir Edmund Bacon, P. Bart. Gar-		
	boldisham	- - -	3224
	Wm. Wodehouse, Esq. Kimberley		3153
	William Morden, Esq. Gunton	-	3147
	Robert Coke, Esq. Holkham	-	3081
1736	Armine Wodehouse, Esq. Kimber-		
	ley, <i>vice</i>		
	William Wodehouse, Esq. <i>deceased</i>		
1741	Edward Lord Coke, son to the Earl		
	of Leicester		
	Arm. Wodehouse, Esq. Kimberley		
1747	Hon. George Townshend, son to		
	Lord Viscount Townshend		
	Arm. Wodehouse, Esq. Kimberley		
1754, May 8,	Hon. George Townshend		
	Armine Wodehouse, Esq. Kimberley		
1761	Hon. George Townshend		
	Arm. Wodehouse, Esq. Kimberley		
1764	Thomas de Grey, Esq. jun. Mer-		
	ton, <i>vice</i>		
	The Hon. George Townshend, <i>now</i>		
	<i>Lord Viscount Townshend</i>		
1768, March 23,	Sir Edward Astley, Bart. Melton-		
	Constable	- - -	2977
	Thomas de Grey, Esq. Merton		2754
	Sir		

	Sir Armine Wodehouse, Bart. Kim-	
	berley - - - -	2680
	Wenman Coke, Esq. Holkham	2610
1774, Oct.	Sir Edward Astley, Bart. Melton-	
	Constable	
	Wenman Coke, Esq. Holkham	
1776, May 8,	Thomas William Coke, Esq. Holk-	
	ham, <i>vice</i>	
	Wenman Coke, Esq. <i>deceased</i>	
1780, Sept. 20,	Sir Edward Astley, Bart. Melton-	
	Constable	
	Thomas Wm. Coke, Esq. Holkham.	

In the year 1258 counties first sent Knights to Parliament; before this the Knights met only in their own counties. Knights of the Shire, or Knights of Parliament, are two Gentlemen of worth, chosen on the King's writ in *plene comitatu*, by such of the freeholders as can expend 40s. per ann. These, when every man who had a Knight's-fee was customarily constrained to be a *Knight*, were of necessity to be *milites gladio cincti*, for so the writ runs to this day; but now custom admits Esquires to be chosen to this important trust. They must have at least 500l. per annum, and their expences, properly, are to be defrayed by the county, though this is now seldom required. A Knight of the Shire is, and has ever been, esteemed the most independent Member of the English House of Commons; because, being chosen by the voluntary suffrages of a large body of the people, whose minds and interests are free from the venal and limited influence of power and party, the object of that choice must always hold sentiments congenial with his virtuous constituents.

It is supposed there are 6000 freeholders in the county of Norfolk, who send two Representatives to Parliament. The city of Norwich, and the boroughs of Lynn-Regis, Great Yarmouth, Thetford, and Castle-Rising, also send two each.

The Members chosen for the New Parliament in Sept. 1780, are, as called over in the House of Commons:

<i>Norfolk,</i>	Sir Edw. Aftley, Bart. Melton-Constable Thomas William Coke, Esq. Holkham.
<i>Lynn-Regis,</i>	Hon. Tho. Walpole, Carshalton, Surrey Crisp Molineux, Esq. Garboldisham.
<i>Great Yarmouth,</i>	Right Hon. C. Townshend, Honingham Hon. Richard Walpole, London.
<i>Thetford,</i>	Charles Fitzroy Scudamore, Esq. Holme- Lacey, Herefordshire Rich. Hopkins, Esq. Oving, Bucks.
<i>Castle-Rising,</i>	John Chetwynd Talbot, Esq. Robert Mackreth, Esq. Ewhursts, Hants.
<i>Norwich,</i>	Sir Harbord Harbord, Bart. Gunton Edward Bacon, Esq. Earlham.

Military Government.

The military and marine government of this county is committed to the care of a Lord-Lieutenant and Vice-Admiral, who is also Custos Rotulorum. The Lord-Lieut. is the *locum tenens* of the King, and, as his Vice-roy, governs in the county. It is an office of great distinction, appointed by the King for managing the standing militia in the county, and all military affairs therein. He has the power of commissioning all officers in the militia, (his Majesty's approbation; as a mere matter of form, being obtained); he appoints the Deputy-Lieutenants, whose names must also
be

be presented by the King. As *Custos Rotulorum*, he puts such gentlemen as are properly qualified into the commission of the peace, and is supposed to have custody of the rolls, or records of the sessions of peace. In both these capacities he appears rather a Minister than a Judge, though he is, in his own person, a Justice of Peace and Quorum. Lord-Lieutenants of counties were first instituted July 24, 1549.—Deputy-Lieutenants regulate the ballot, and pass the militia-men to their respective regiments; and if in the commission of peace, provides, by statute, for the wives and families of such men as are in actual service.

Two Right Honorable Peers now living, and residing in this county, were the original promoters of the militia bill, passed in 1757; which establishment, though strongly opposed at that time, has since proved of great national import; and, by the endeavours of men zealous in the true interests of their country, hath rose progressively to a system of military discipline and tactics not inferior to the most regular troops. This county hath also the honor of having raised the first battalion, which marched out of the county, and did duty at Hilsa-barracks, near Portsmouth, in 1759.

From a quarto volume, called “ A Plan of Discipline, composed for the Use of the Militia of the County of Norfolk,” published in 1759, by the late William Windham, Esq. Lieutenant-Colonel of the first battalion, we beg leave to quote a passage of Lord Townshend’s dedication.

“ Our military sceptics now direct their whole tirallerie against the military part of the act; to obviate, therefore, the objections on this side, a worthy gentleman of Norfolk*, though

* The late William Windham, Esq. of Felbrigg.

though no regular bred foldier, nor the offspring of the parade, has endeavoured to prove, how easily an healthy robust countryman, or a resolute mechanic, may be taught the use of arms; and how very attainable that degree of military knowledge is, which will enable a country gentleman to command a platoon; consequently that, under proper encouragement, it is very possible for this kingdom (the constant rival of the most powerful nation in the world, and engaged often for its own sake to defend the liberties of others) to establish so numerous and permanent a force, as may enable it all times to act with superiority abroad, without endangering its own safety or liberties at home. Such undoubtedly may be the consequence of instructing, to a certain degree, the body of the nation in the use of arms; for if the common people be made only half soldiers, and the gentlemen by a certain degree of application become only half officers; yet by a timely multiplication of the number of militia, as well as by the rotation prescribed by the act, and that further additional discipline which would result, from the militia's being put into actual service, previous to an invasion; this country will have a better security against the calamities of war, than any other in the world, Switzerland alone excepted."

And now, we hope, we shall be excused for adding to this section of our general history, a list of those gentlemen serving at this time, 1781, in the militia of this county.

WEST NORFOLK REGIMENT,

Kingston upon Hull.

Colonel,—George Earl of Orford—*Colonel in the Army.*

Lieutenant Colonel,—Knipe Gobbet.

Major,—Richard Lloyd.

G

Captains.

Captains.

Christopher Girling
Edward Coke
William Earle Bulwer
John Micklethwaite
George Montgomery-Molineux
George Preston
George Cubit.

Captain-Lieutenant—Robert Suckling.

Lieutenants.

William Thorne
William Gordon
John Alderson
Mostyn John Armstrong
James Beevor
David Williams
James Ward
Guy Lloyd
Thomas Walpole.

Ensigns.

———— Gordon
Robert Colvin
John Girling
William Girling
———— Crozier
Maurice William Suckling
Henry Falkner
James Plettow
Hawkins Hamilton.

Adjutant,—William Gordon.

Quarter-Master,—Robert Suckling.

Surgeon,—John Alderson.

Surgeon's-Mate,—David Williams.

EAST NORFOLK REGIMENT,
Camp at Harwich.

Colonel,—Sir John Wodehouse, Bart.

Lieutenant-Colonel,—Hon. Horatio Walpole.

Major,—Richard Ward.

Captains.

Edmund Mapes

Hammond Alpe

John Smith

Thomas Bullock

Jacob Astley.

Captain-Lieutenant,—Thomas Cubit.

Lieutenants.

David Ingerfol

Nicholas Boylstone

William Tapp

F. Bedingfield

Thomas Hatch

Thomas Martin

——— Wright

John Gibson.

Ensigns.

Thomas Penrice

Thomas Crompton

John Tooke.

Adjutant,—William Tapp.

Quarter Master,—Henry Hawke.

Surgeon,—Thomas Penrice.

Surgeon's-Mate,—Thomas Crompton.

Of fortifications, or land-defence, we have very little to say, in Norfolk. The danger and difficulty of navigating a force on this coast has been always looked on as its best security; but, in the present situation of affairs, some begin to think it less invulnerable, should an enemy be piloted by any of those infernal wretches, who, from smugglers, become parricides!—robbers!—pirates! Yarmouth, indeed, hath a platform of guns, called a *Fort*, at the entrance of the harbour; but certainly a place of so much importance in itself, and, as the key to the whole county, it ought to be better secured. Royal Engineers have been down lately to examine the grounds, and, we are told, to construct some additional works on the walls of the town, on the Denes, and on the heights of Gorleston. At Lynn-Regis the harbour was formerly guarded by a battery, called St. Ann's, which was since dismounted, but lately supplied with canon, and repaired: However, the navigation of Lynn channel is so extremely precarious, that little danger need be apprehended by a hostile visit from our natural enemies in that quarter.

The apprehension of a descent on our coast by any of the maritime powers now at war with us, and the late dreadful insurrection in London, hath operated strongly with some public-spirited persons at Lynn, and at Yarmouth, to form themselves into military associations. Some other towns in the county have each made a feeble effort to learn the military exercise and discipline—to little purpose.

The Vice-Admiral of a county is an officer appointed by the Lord High-Admiral, with Judges and Marshals subordinate to him; for the exercising of jurisdiction in maritime affairs, within his respective limits: From his decision and sentence, appeal lies to the Court of Admiralty

in London, from the Lords Commissioners of which a Vice-Admiral receives his instructions.

History and Antiquity.

To enter into the field of civil, military, and political affairs of the kingdom at large, would justly be deemed an idle parade of information which may be found in works better adapted to that purpose; we shall, therefore, only trouble the reader with so much as appears necessary to lead us into what more materially concerns this county: Nor shall we herein (as far as our recollection will serve us) repeat those general remarks which occur in the descriptions of the towns and hundreds.

At what period of time Britain was first peopled by the Celts, a tribe of Gauls, is uncertain; as is also what passed among them till the invasion of the Romans under Julius Cæsar, who landed at Deal, in Kent, August 26, fifty-five years before Christ; nor was it till 145 years after this, that Britain was discovered to be—an island.

The first inhabitants of this county, which we read of, were the Iceni, who are generally thought to have possessed as much more as afterwards formed, with this, the kingdom of the East-Angles. Their name remains in several towns of this county, Suffolk, and Cambridge-shire; and the *Ickniel-Street* passes through them all. Mr. Camden derives their name from their situation along the ocean in form of a *wedge*, which is the meaning of the British word *Iken*. Tacitus informs us they were a valiant people, and having submitted to the Romans, remained undisturbed till the reign of Claudius Cæsar, when Ostorius,
the

the Roman General, disarming them, forced them to rebel. They were scarce reduced before they revolted a second time. Their King Prasutagus thinking to secure tranquillity to his people and family, bequeathed his kingdom to the Emperor Nero. But this was in fact only leaving it as a prey. It was presently plundered by every officer in the Roman army, and the honor of his family violated in the person of his wife Boadicea, and daughters. Enraged at this usage, which was heightened by the usurious exactions of the celebrated philosopher Seneca, the Iceni took up arms under their Queen Boadicea, the widow of Prasutagus, and entering into an alliance with the Trinobantes and other Britons equally aggrieved with themselves, they attacked the Romans, slew 80,000, razed the colony of Camalodurum and the municipium of Verulam, and routed the 9th legion under Catus Decianus. Suetonius-Paulinus the Roman legate was at that time absent; but returning soon after, rallied his scattered legions and met Boadicea in the field at the head of 230,000 Britons. After a vigorous resistance, the Britons were defeated, 80,000 slain, and their magnanimous Queen died soon after of poison, *anno Dni.* 59. From this time we hear no more of the Iceni under the Romans, till the decline of the empire; when their coasts lying open to the continent of Saxony, were so much infested by pirates of that nation, that an officer was appointed on purpose to defend them, under the name of *Comes litoris Saxonici*, or Count of the Saxon shore. In 426, the Romans entirely quitted our island. The Britons, after soliciting the aid of Valentinian, by a letter written in the most abject strain, and inscribed, “ the Groans of the Britons,” entered into an alliance with the Saxons, whose assistance they were in absolute need of, against the invasions of the Scots and

Picts. In 449, the Saxons, to the amount of 1,600 men, landed from three small vessels in the Isle of Thanet, and gradually getting footing in Britain, founded seven kingdoms, known by the name of the *HEPTARCHY*, viz. Kent, South Saxony or Suffex, West Saxony or Wessex, East Saxony or Essex, Northumberland, East-Angles, and Mercia. The kingdom of the *EAST-ANGLES* was established about the year 575, by *Uffa*, who dying in 578, was succeeded by his son *Titist*. He died in 599, and was succeeded by his son *Redwald*, an excellent Prince, who embraced Christianity, but relapsed into his former errors at the persuasion of his wife *Wilburga*. He protected *Edwin*, a young Prince driven out by *Ethelfrid*, King of Northumberland, who demanding him to be delivered up, *Redwald* met him in the field and entirely defeated him. He died in 624, and was succeeded by his son *Eorpwald*, a weak Prince, who was converted to christianity; and, after a reign of nine years, was assassinated by *Richbert*, his relation, in 633, and succeeded by his half-brother *Sigebert*. He was a christian Prince, and under him the see of *Dunwich* was established by *Felix*, and the first literary seminary, or public school is said to have been founded at *Cambridge*. He retired from the fatigues of Government to a monastery, and resigned the Crown in 644, to his kinsman *Egric*. *Penda*, King of *Mercia*, declared war against the new King, who solicited the assistance of *Sigebert*, and they were both together slain in battle in the said year. The seventh King of the *East-Angles* was *Anna*, one of the most celebrated Princes of the *East-Angles*, nephew of *Redwald*, who restored *Kenewall* to the throne of *Wessex*; which was so resented by *Penda*, that he invaded his kingdom, and slew him in 654. *Penda* then set up *Anna's** brother

* *Anna* had six sons and one daughter, *St. Withgith*, or *Withburgh*, buried at *East Dereham*.

ther Ethelbert, who was slain in battle with Oswi, King of Northumberland, in Yorkshire, the next year. The succeeding Kings have so little said of them in history,, that their names must suffice.

- 9 Ethelwald, brother of Ethelbert, from 655 to 664.
- 10 Adulf, his nephew, and son of Ethelbert, to 683.
- 11 Elfwald, his brother, died in 749.
- 12 Beorna and Aldred governed jointly, and Beorna died in 756.
- 13 Etheldred died about 790, succeeded by his son.
- 14 Ethelbert, an excellent Prince, was basely assassinated in 792 by his father-in-law Offa, King of Mercia, who united the kingdom of East-Anglia to his own.

Offa was succeeded by his son Egfer, at whose death in 799, Kenulf, a descendent of Penda, mounted the throne. He reigned a good Prince, and dying about 819, left his son Kenelm a minor, who was murdered by order of his sister, and Ceolwulf had the Crown of Mercia and East-Anglia.

The East-Angles having defeated his successors, elected in 857, for their King, Edmund, who after a reign of 13 years, was defeated and cruelly slain in 870, by the Danes, who had landed in England in 787, and over-ran the kingdom. This Edmund it was who had the crown of the East-Angles bequeathed to him by Offa, and landing from Germany at Hunstanton, in Norfolk, was crowned at Bury. After his defeat near Thetford in 869, he was put to death by the Danes because he would not abjure the christian faith: Hence he has ever been considered as a *Royal Martyr*, and honored with the title of *Saint*.

The

The several kingdoms of the Saxon Heptarchy were in a state of anarchy and confusion when Egbert ascended the throne of Wessex. He had been brought up in France under Charlemagne, and after his return, in 800, he reduced the Welsh and Cornish-Britons. He also subdued the Mercians, the East-Saxons, and Kent; but the East-Angles declared for Egbert. In this manner were all the kingdoms of the Heptarchy united in one great state, about 400 years after the arrival of the Saxons in Britain, and Egbert, in 828, was crowned at Winchester, “sole Monarch of Britain,” when he ordered, by special edict, for the future it should be called **ENGLAND**.

The Danes now made their appearance on the coast, and having landed at different times, and in different parts of the kingdom, over-run the Anglo-Saxons in a few years. Egbert died Feb. 4, 837, when his son Ethelwolf succeeded to the crown—*of thorns*; for the Danes now proved a powerful enemy, and defeated his troops in many engagements: He died January 13, 857. Ethelbald his eldest son and successor died in 860, and Ethelbert his brother governed; at whose decease, in 866, Ethelred I. his next brother, was crowned. In his reign the Danes spread their conquests over his dominions, but received a severe check from his younger brother Prince Alfred, who had the title of Earl, and assisted him in the field. In 871, the Danes abandoned East-Anglia and advanced into Wessex, where several bloody battles were fought, in one of which Ethelred received a wound which caused his death, and Alfred ascended the throne in 872. This great and virtuous Prince, after many perils and escapes, totally routed the Danes under Guthrum, at Eddington, in Somerset, *anno Dni.* 879, and obliged them to receive baptism, and reside in East-Anglia; which Guthrum held as a feudatory

Prince. Here the Danes built houses, improved lands, were made denizens, and had a short code of laws given them by Alfred ; but notwithstanding this, they revolted.

Alfred, by his moderation and benignity, reduced all his subjects to obedience. He added to his military, a naval force, and formed many wholesome laws, both civil and religious. He instituted an order of knighthood, established a regular militia, and fortified every place. He rebuilt monasteries, churches, &c. and encreased London to a flourishing city. He encouraged learning, introduced building with brick and stone, and established three councils for the management of State affairs. He began in 886, and finished in 889 his division of England into counties, hundreds, wapentakes, wards, rapes, &c. and caused a general survey to be made, the rolls whereof were lodged at Westminster, from whence DOOMSDAY-BOOK derives its origin.

The Danes had again revolted, but were subdued, and Northumberland and the East-Angles taken into Alfred's government, *anno Dni.* 896. He compiled a body of laws, which were afterwards made use of by Edward the Confessor, and died October 26, 900, aged 51, justly sur-named "*the Great.*"

His son, Edward the Elder, succeeded, at which time England was pretty equally divided between the Anglo-Saxons and Danes, but after various conflicts, he subdued the latter, in which he was much assisted by his heroic sister Elfreda. In 921, the Danes of East-Anglia took the oaths of allegiance to Edward, and in 925 he died. Athelstan, his successor, died in 941, aged 46, when Edmund I. his half-brother, was crowned, but was basely murdered, May 25, 948, aged only 25 ; and his brother Edred succeeded

to the crown. He reigned till November 23, 955, leaving two sons; but his nephew Edwy ascended the English throne: and having resented the insolence of the clergy with more zeal than prudence, they fomented an insurrection, when Edgar, his brother, was placed on the throne of East-Anglia, Mercia, and Northumberland. Edwy died of grief in 959, and Edgar, surnamed *the peaceable*, succeeded him.

In 960 Edgar was rowed down the river Dee by eight tributary Kings, and died in 975, aged 32. Edward *the Martyr*, his natural son, had the crown, but was inhumanly murdered in 979 by Elfrida, his step-mother, whose son, Etheldred II. *the unsteady*, succeeded. At his time the Danes became very troublesome, and in 992 invaded in great force the East-Angles, and afterwards invested London, &c. A land-tax, called Dane-gelt, was levied to satisfy the invaders. In 1003 Etheldred married a daughter of Richard II. Duke of Normandy, and on November 13, he ordered a general massacre of the Danes; to revenge which, Sweyn, King of Denmark, landed in Norfolk, burnt Norwich, Thetford, &c. and proceeded to plunder and destroy in every part. In Kent, 43,000 inhabitants were butchered, and vast sums exacted.

In 1013, Sweyn was proclaimed King of England, but died suddenly next year; and his son Canute finding it difficult to keep the succession, retired to Denmark, and Etheldred II. was restored, but died in 1016, aged 58, when his son, Edmund II. surnamed *Ironside*, assumed the crown; but, in the same year, Canute *the Great* returned, and was proclaimed. These competitors agreed to divide the kingdom, and the Dane held East-Anglia, Mercia, and Northumberland, by conquest. In 1017 Edmund was

assassinated by Ealric his brother-in-law, and Canute reigned alone. He divided England into four governments: East-Anglia, with the title of Duke, he gave to Turketel, whom he afterwards banished, and levied a *land-tax*, amounting to 82,000*l.* to reward his Danish followers. In 1034 he founded the abbey of St. Bennet in the Holme, and died November 12, 1036, being succeeded by his eldest son, Harold I. surnamed *Hare-foot*, who died in 1039. His brother, Canute, or *Hardy-Canute*, next mounted the throne, but died suddenly in 1041; and Edward *the Confessor*, son of Etheldred II. was proclaimed King: He married Editha, daughter of Earl Godwin, whose son, Harold, was Duke of East-Anglia and Essex.

Edward abolished the Dane-gelt, and expelled the Danes. In 1051 William Duke of Normandy paid him a visit, on whom he settled the succession, but Earl Godwin had influence enough to secure it for his own son, Harold, who, on the death of Edward*, January 5, 1066, was crowned. In October following William Duke of Normandy landed at Pavensey, in Suffex, and on the 14th defeated and slew Harold II. at the battle of Hastings.

Thus far we have endeavoured to ground the reader in the general history of the Anglo-Saxon and Danish Sovereigns. Of William *the Conqueror* and his successors, and the several changes in public affairs, property, &c. our local descriptions are sufficiently copious; we will, therefore, only add a list of such of the Norman followers as had lordships and principal manors in this county granted to them by the Conqueror.

To

* He was canonized for a SAINT, because he first took upon himself to touch for the cure of the EVIL, now called the KING's.

To Hugh de Arbrances, his sister's son, by Richard, surnamed Goz, he gave the Earldom of Chester, to hold by the sword, and with it twelve manors in Norfolk.

To Odo, Bishop of Baieux, in Normandy, by the mother's side his brother, whom he made a Count-palatine, and allowed him power over all the Earls of England and other great men, and to make laws, and administer them as *Justiciarius Angliæ*; and more particularly constituted him Earl of Kent; besides other large possessions, he enfeoffed him with twenty-two manors in Norfolk.

To Alan Rufus, or Fergaunt, son of Eudo, Earl of Bretagne, whom he made Earl of Richmond in Yorkshire, he gave, as the reward of his valor, eighty-one manors in Norfolk.

To Walter Giffard, son of Osborn de Bolbec, and Avelin, his wife, sister of Gunnora, the Conqueror's grandmother, whom he made Earl of Bucks, twenty-eight manors in Norfolk.

To Ralph Walier, or Guader, so called from his castle of Guader, in France, whom he constituted Earl of Norfolk and Suffolk, he gave nine manors in Norfolk.

To William, Earl Warren in Normandy, nephew to the Countess Gunnora before-mentioned, whom he made Earl of Surrey and Arundel, he gave, for his valor, 139 lordships in Norfolk.

To Eudo de Rhye, fourth son of Hubert de Rhye, who, for his fidelity to him, he made his deputy in Normandy, and whose elder son, Hubert, he made Governor of the castle of Norwich, he gave nine manors in Norfolk.

To William de Albini, *Pincerna*, son of Roger de Albini, whom he made his butler, he gave four manors in Norfolk, the possessions of one Edwin, a Dane; besides the lands which he had in this county with Maud, the daughter of Roger Bigot, his wife, which were ten Knight's fees. He held his manor of Buckenham by the service of being "butler to the Kings of England at their coronation."

To Humphry de Bohun, or, *With the Beard*, whom he made Earl of Hereford, being a kinsman of the Conqueror's, and attending him in his expedition hither, he gave one lordship in Norfolk.

To Ralph de Limeſi one manor.—To Peter de Valoines twenty lordships.—To Ralph de Baynard forty-four manors.—And to Ralph de Tony, son of Roger de Tony, standard-bearer of Normandy, for his eminent services, nineteen lordships in Norfolk.

The Conqueror having parcelled out the lands and estates of the English, and fixed himself on the throne, he ordered a general survey, in imitation of the roll of Winchester by Alfred, to be taken "of all the lands in the kingdom; their extent in each hundred, or district; their proprietors, tenures, and value; the quantity of meadow, pasture, wood, and arable land, which they contained; and, in some counties, the number of tenants, cottages, and vassals of all denominations who lived upon them. He appointed Commissioners for this purpose, who entered every particular in their register *by the verdict of juries*; and after a labor of six years, they brought him, in 1086, an exact account of all the *landed property* in the kingdom. This monument, called DOOMSDAY-BOOK, the most valuable piece of antiquity possessed by any nation, is still preserved in the Exchequer."

Earls and Dukes of Norfolk.

Under the Saxon monarchy, this county, as well as others, was committed to the government of certain persons of quality, called *Æthelings*, (nobles) and *Earls*, now Earls; these were titles both of honor and office; and implied that the parties who bore them, had the charge and custody of the county, and administered justice in it. They were allowed the third penny, or third part of the pleas of the county; the other two parts being received by the *Viccomes*, or Earl's deputy, (answering to the present High-sheriff) for the King's use, and by him accounted for in the Exchequer.

We have a catalogue of these Earls from the time of Edgar to the Conquest, by the name of Earls of the East-Angles, or Norfolk.

1. *Æthelstan*, surnamed *Half-King*. His wife, *Alfwen*, was nurse to King Edgar; and he had by her four sons, *Ethelwold*, *Alfwold*, *Ethelfin*, and *Aylwin*. He ended his days in *Glastonbury-abbey*, and his wife founded *Chateris* nunnery in *Cambridgeshire*, where she was buried.

2. *Ethelwold*, son of the former, being employed by King Edgar to solicit the affection of *Elfrida*, daughter of *Orgar*, Earl of *Devon*, he deceived his master, and took her for his own wife. But some time after, inviting the King to the christening of his son, Edgar became so enamoured of *Elfrida*, that he rested not till he found a pretence of getting rid of the Earl by sending him with a public commission into the North, and causing him to be assassinated on his way thither. He then publicly married his widow, and had her crowned, notwithstanding the reproaches

proaches of Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury. She bore the King two sons; Edmund, who died in his infancy, and Ethelred, surnamed the *Unready*, his successor.

3. Aylwin succeeded his eldest brother, Ethelwold, in this earldom. He was Alderman of all England, and in 969 founded Ramsey-abbey in Huntingdon-shire, where his statue, inscribed *Totius Angliæ Aldermannus*, is still to be seen. He died in 993, having had three wives; Ethelflede, who died in 977; Ethelgiva, who died in 935; and Ulgiva, who died in 991. He was succeeded by

4. Ulfketel, who in 1004, when Sweyn, King of Denmark, invaded England, and burnt Norwich, found himself so unprepared to repel the invader, that he made peace with him: But when Sweyn perfidiously burnt Thetford he attacked him, and though he did not gain the victory, he gave the enemy a severe check. He attacked them again in 1010, with the same success, and lost his life in the memorable battle of Ashdown, *anno Dni. 1016*, which left Canute in possession of the kingdom.

5. The next Earl was a Dane, Turketel, or Turkil; who fought with his predecessor in 1010, and afterwards went over from Sweyn to Ethelred, for whom he defended London against the Danes in 1013. Canute, on his accession, advanced him to the earldom, and created him Duke; but the time of his death is uncertain.

6. The sixth Earl was Harold, afterwards King of England, and slain at the battle of Hastings, October 14. 1066.

7. On Harold's succeeding to the government of Wessex, Kent, &c. Alfgar, son of Leofric, Duke of Mercia, was created Earl of East-Anglia.

William the Conqueror conferred the earldom of Norfolk on one Waher, or Guader, who some of our historians make a native of the county; others, with more probability, of Bretagne. He conspired against his benefactor, and when some of the conspirators repented and disclosed the design, he persisted in it, and raised forces, which were defeated, and himself obliged to flee to Denmark. There he persuaded the King's son to come over with a fleet; but finding William prepared for them, they landed in Flanders. He afterwards took upon him the cross, and died at Jerusalem, in the crusade, under Robert Curthose, Duke of Normandy. Doomsday-book mentions the manors held by him in this county. He left two sons and one daughter, but his estates in this kingdom were forfeited.

The title of Earl of Norfolk was next in the great family of Bigot*. The first of this family that settled in England was Roger, who held several lordships in this county at the survey, and revolted against William Rufus, in behalf of his brother Robert, but adhered faithfully to Henry I. He founded Thetford-abbey, where he was buried, 1107, in the 1st of Henry I. He was succeeded by his son, William Bigot, appointed Steward of the Household to that King, and shipwrecked with the royal children in their passage to Normandy. His brother, Hugh Bigot, succeeded in his office, whom King Stephen

I

for

* Bigot, or Bygod, comes from the German, BEY, and GOTT, or the English, BY GOD! Camden relates, that the Normans were first called BIGOTS, on occasion of their Duke Rollo, who receiving Gisle, daughter of King Charles, in marriage, and with her the investiture of the Dukedom, refused to kiss the King's foot in token of subjection, unless he would hold it out for that purpose: and being urged to it by those present, answered hastily, "No! by God!" whereupon the King turning about, called him BIGOT; which name passed from him to his people.

for his services in advancing him to the Crown of England, had before created Earl of the East-Angles. He was afterwards advanced to the dignity and title of Earl of Norfolk by Henry II. 12. *anno Dni.* 1166.

Roger Bigot, before-mentioned, came over with the Conqueror from Normandy, and had the capital manor and lordship of Forncet, with all its royalties, &c. granted for his eminent services at the battle of Hasting; but as that lordship has ever since passed with the Earls and Dukes of Norfolk, we must refer the reader to the account of Forncet, in Depwade hundred, for particulars: Suffice it, in this place, to give an epitomical succession of the **EARLS and DUKES of NORFOLK** to the present time.

1. Hugh Bigot, created Earl of the East-Angles by King Stephen, 6. 1141; and afterwards Earl of Norfolk by Henry II. 12. 1166. He died in 1177, attainted.

2. Roger Bigot, his son, restored to the Earldom, &c. by Richard I. in 1189, and died in 1220, Henry III. 4.*

3. Hugh Bigot, his son, third Earl of Norfolk, died in 1224, Henry III. 8.

4. Roger Bigot, his son, fourth Earl of Norfolk, died in 1270, Henry III. 54.

5. Roger Bigot, his nephew, fifth Earl of Norfolk, died in 1305, Edward I. 33. without issue, leaving the King his heir, who bestowed the Earldom of Norfolk, and estates, on

1. Thomas Plantagenet de Brotherton, his fifth son, who died in 1338, Edward III. 12.

2. Margaret,

* Roger was one of the Barons who obtained that glorious palladium of English liberty "Magna Charta," from King John, at Runnymede.

2. Margaret, his daughter and heiress, married to John Lord Segrave, of Folkstone, in Kent, and created Duchess of Norfolk for life, in 1398, Richard II. 21. She died March 24, next year, leaving Elizabeth, her daughter and heiress, married to John Lord Mowbray, whose son,

1. Thomas Mowbray, the first Duke of Norfolk, created by Richard II. before 1386. He was banished in 1398, and died at Venice in 1400. Thomas, his eldest son, was beheaded in 1407, and

2. John Mowbray, his brother, was restored to the Dukedom, &c. in 1425, and died October 19, 1433, Henry VI. 11.

3. John Mowbray, his son, had a confirmation of the title, &c. and died in 1461, Edward IV. 1.

4. John Mowbray, his son, died in 1465, Edward IV. 15. leaving an only daughter, Anne, married to

3. * Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, second son of Edward IV. who, in her right, became Duke of Norfolk, &c. but being, with his brother, Edward V. murdered in the Tower, by their uncle, Richard III. June 18, 1483, the honors and estates devolved on Margaret, a daughter and coheirs of Thomas Mowbray, the first Duke of Norfolk, married to sir Robert Howard, knt. whose son,

1. Sir John Howard, knt. was created Duke of Norfolk by Richard III. June 28, 1483, and killed in Bosworth-field, August 22, 1483, with that King, and attainted.

2. Thomas Howard, his son, was restored in blood, and created Duke of Norfolk, February 1, 1513. He died May 1, 1524, Henry VIII. 15.

3. Thomas Howard, his son, the third (Howard) Duke of Norfolk, was attainted in Parliament, and died in 1554. Mary, 1.—His eldest son, Henry Earl of Surrey, was beheaded in 1547.

4. Thomas Howard, son of Henry Earl of Surrey, being restored in blood, succeeded his grandfather as fourth Duke of Norfolk, but was beheaded June 2, 1573, Elizabeth, 15.

5. Thomas Howard, son of Philip Earl of Arundel, who was also attainted, and died November 19, 1595, was restored in blood by James I. 1602, and created Earl of Norfolk, June 6, 1644, Charles I. 20. He died in Italy, September 14, 1646, aged 61.

6. Henry Howard, his son, succeeded as Earl of Norfolk, &c. and died April 17, 1652, Charles II. 4.

7. Thomas Howard, his son, was created Duke of Norfolk, October 19, 1672, Charles II. 24. and died without issue, in 1678.

8. Henry Howard, his brother, sixth Duke of Norfolk, died January 11, 1683, Charles II. 35, aged 55.

9. Henry Howard, his son, seventh Duke of Norfolk, died April 2, 1701, William III. 13. without issue, aged 47.

10. Thomas Howard, eldest son of Lord Thomas Howard, brother of the last Duke, succeeded his uncle as eighth Duke of Norfolk, &c. and died without issue, December 23, 1732, George II. 5. aged 49.

11. Edward Howard, his brother, ninth Duke of Norfolk died without issue, September 20, 1777, George III.

12. Charles Howard, descended from Charles, brother of Thomas, the fifth Duke, succeeded as tenth Duke of Norfolk, and is now living. His Grace is premier Duke, Earl, and Baron of England.

The Liberty of the Duke of Norfolk.

As this liberty is of great extent in the county, and a matter of general information, we will here give an account of its rise and privileges, rather than annex it to any particular town of the liberty.

“ Edward IV. by letters patent under the broad seal of England, dated at Westminster, December 7, 1468, in the 8th year of his reign, granted to John Duke of Norfolk, and Elizabeth, his wife, and their heirs for ever, the return of all writs whatsoever, and of all bills, summons, precepts, and mandates, of the King, and of all acting under him, within the liberty, manors, and hundreds, following, viz within the manors and demesnes of Forncet, Framlingham *Parva*, Ditchingham *Parva*, Ditchingham, Loddon, Sissland, Halvergate, South-Walham, Cantley, Strumpshaw, Castor, Winterton, Dickleburgh, Beighton, and Bayfield; also within the whole hundred of Earsham, and the half-hundred of Giltcross, in the county of Norfolk; and also in the towns, parishes, and demesnes, of Kelsale, Bonnagaie, Peasenhall, Calcote, Stonham, Dennington, Brundish, Ilketshall, and Cratfield, in Suffolk: In the rapes of Lewis and Bramber, and all the parts and parcels thereto belonging, and in the hundred and lordship of Boseham, and the town of Stoughton, in Sussex; in the manor and lordships of Reygate, and Barking, in Surrey; and the town, manor, and lordships of Harwich, and Dovercourt, in Essex; and in all parcels, precincts, and jurisdictions

jurisdictions of all the aforesaid rapes, hundreds, towns, manors, and lordships, so that no Sheriff, or any other officer whatsoever, should enter the said LIBERTY, but that every thing should be transacted by the officers of the said Duke, appointed for that purpose. Furthermore, the King granted to the Duke and his heirs, all manner of fines, profits, amerciaments, penalties, &c. of all residents in the said liberty, with all other things that should accrue to his Royal Crown and dignity, with full power for the Duke's officers to seize for any of them, in as full a manner as the King's officers should have done, if this grant had not been made. Further, the King granted to the said Duke and his heirs, all waifs and strays, felons goods, and forfeitures; and also, that the residents in this liberty should not be sued, or forced to answer in any other court than that of the liberty, for any sum under 40s. And further, the King granted to the said Duke, full power and authority to have his own Coroners and Clerks of the markets in his liberty, with the same power that those officers of the King have in any other place; together with a Steward of the liberty, who shall have power to determine all actions under 40s. so that they arise within the liberty; all which privileges the King confirmed to him, in exchange for the castle, manor, lordship, and burgh of Cheshowe, the manor of Barton, and the manor and lordship of Tuddenham, in the Welsh Marshes, to which all the aforesaid privileges (and much greater) belonged, and had been enjoyed by the Duke and his ancestors, time out of mind; but were now by the Duke, at the King's earnest request, conveyed to William Earl of Pembroke, and his heirs, and a fine levied accordingly: all these liberties and privileges were enjoyed by the said Duke and his successors till the time of Queen Elizabeth, and then were exemplified

fed under feal, at Weftminfter, the 4th day of July,
 in the year 1558, at the request of Thomas Duke of
 Norfolk, who was then feifed in fee, and fo continued till
 1568, when he fettled this, among other large eftates,
 on trustees, to his own ufe for life; but upon the
 attainder of the Duke, and Philip Earl of Surrey, it was
 feized by the Crown, where it continued till James I. by
 letters patent, dated at Weftminfter, in the year 1602, gave
 and granted to his faithful Counfellors, Thomas Lord
 Howard, Baron of Walden, and Henry Howard, brother of
 Thomas late Duke of Norfolk, and fon of Henry late Earl of
 Surrey, and their heirs, this liberty, with the honor, lord-
 ſhip, and manor of Forncet, and the manors of Earl's, or
 Little Framlingham, Halvergate, Ditchingham, Siſland,
 Dickleburgh, Loddon, and Launditch hundred, in Nor-
 folk; the caſtle, ſoke, and manor of Bungay, and manor
 of Cratfield, in Suffolk, (all being part of the poſſeſſions of
 the late attainted Duke) together with all law-days, amer-
 ciaments, views of frank-pledge, &c. the one moiety to
 Thomas Lord Howard, and his heirs, the other to Henry
 Howard, and his heirs; and on April 3, the year following,
 the King by other letters patent, granted to Thomas How-
 ard, Earl of Suffolk, Lord Chamberlain of his Houſhold,
 and to Henry Compton, Earl of Northampton, Guardian
 of the Cinque Ports, (thoſe titles being conferred on them
 in the mean time) and their heirs, the manors and advow-
 ſons of Ditchingham, and South-Walſham, late the at-
 tainted Duke's; and by other letters patent, dated at Weſt-
 minſter, November 22, in the 6th year of his reign, he
 gave them the half-hundred of Guiltcrofs, in Norfolk,
 and Cratfield and Kelfale manors, in Suffolk, late the ſaid
 Duke's, with all their liberties, &c. together with the
 barony, burgh, and manor of Lewes, in Suffex, and the
 barony and manor of Bramber, with the office of Itinerant
 Bailiff,

Bailiff, and of Clerks of the Markets within the said baronies in Suffex, together with Darking *cum* Capell manor, in Surrey, with all the libertics of the late Duke of Norfolk, as leets, views of frank-pledge, law-days, assize of bread and beer, pleas, waifs, strays, forfeitures of felons, fugitives, deodands, knight's-fees, escheats, heriots, free-warren, return of all writs, precepts, &c. in as full and ample a manner as ever Thomas Duke of Norfolk enjoyed his liberty before his attainder; by means of which grant each of them was seised of a moiety, all which premisses they divided by indenture, dated the 13th day of May following: The manors of Forncet, Ditchingham, Loddon, Sisland, Halvergate, South-Walham, Launditch hundred, and the half-hundred of Earsham, with the manor of Bungay, were assigned to the Earl of Northampton, and his heirs, of which he died seised in 1613, and they descended to Thomas Earl of Arundel and Surrey, (who was restored in blood in a Parliament at Westminster, March 19, 1602) as cousin and next heir: and after this Henry Earl of Arundel and Surrey, by indenture dated March 1, 1617, purchased to him and his heirs, of the Earl of Suffolk, all his part, right, and estate, in the hundred of Guiltcross; Kelsale and Cratfield manors, in Suffolk; the rapes of Lewes, and Bramber, and No-man's-land, in Suffex; Darking and Capell manors, in Surrey; the barony, manor, and burgh of Lewes, with the office of Bailiff Itinerant; the manors of Lewisburgh, Rymer, Ilford, Seaford, Meching, Middleton, Brighthelmston, the Free-chase called Clers, liberty of the Sheriff's-turn called No-man's-land, Sheffield and Grimstead manors, the barony and manor of Bramber, with the Itinerant Bailiff there, the burgh of Horsham, burgh of Shoreham, and and Beding New-Park, the burgh of Steyning, and the
manor

manor of Sompting-Abbots, the office of Clerks of the Markets in Lewes and Bramber baronies, Sheffield and Lingfield manor, the fourth part of Barking and Capell manors, the Toll-booth of Southwark, and Guildford in Surrey, and all privileges that Thomas late Duke of Norfolk had in the letters patent of Queen Elizabeth; and particularly all those liberties, commonly called the Duke of Norfolk's liberty, by virtue of which Thomas Earl of Arundel and Surrey aforesaid was seised of the whole in fee, and so continued till the 12th of August, 1641, and then he and Alatheia Countess of Arundel, his wife, and Henry Lord Mowbray and Maltravers, their eldest son, and heir apparent, and their trustees, settled it (among many other estates) on others in trust, in order that they should make sale of all, or any parcels of the said baronies, lands, tenements, hereditaments, liberties, advowsons, &c. aforesaid, and that the money from thence raised should be by them applied to pay the debts of Thomas late Earl of Arundel and Surrey, and the overplus to remain to the Lord Maltravers, and whatever remained unsold after the debts paid, they were to stand seised of to the use of the Lord Maltravers, and his heirs; and soon after, 1669, (the debts being paid) it was again vested in the Howard family, the Duke of Norfolk being now Lord, who nominates a Steward and Coroner, and keeps a gaol for debtors, either in Lopham or elsewhere, as he pleases*.

K

Liberty

* This account is taken from a manuscript, containing an exemplification of all the grants of the privileges of the liberty, which is now in the hands of the Steward.

Liberty of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Besides the liberty of the Duke of Norfolk in this county, there is that of the Duchy of Lancaster, the court of which is kept at Aylsham.—*Curia ducatus Lancastriensis.*

“ It continued in the Crown till 1371, when it was first made parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster by the King’s giving it to his son, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and the heirs of his body, and from that time Aylsham became the head, or principal town of that Duchy, in this county.

“ This John took his name from the town of Gaunt, where he was born, being fourth son to Edward III. and was created Earl of Richmond in 1342, the revenues of which Earldom he then exchanged with the King: This man was King of Castile and Leon, Duke of Guienne, Aquitaine, and Lancaster, Earl of Richmond, Derby, Lincoln, and Leicester, and High-Steward of England: he had three wives; first,

“ Blanch, daughter and coheirefs of Henry Duke of Lancaster, by whom he had, 1st, Henry, afterwards King of England; 2d, Philippa, wife to King John of Portugal; 3d, Elizabeth, married to John Holland, Duke of Exeter.

“ His second wife was Constance, daughter and one of the coheireffes of Peter King of Castile, by whom he had issue, Catherine, married to Henry, son of John King of Spain, with the title to the kingdoms of Castile and Leon.

“ His third wife was Catherine, daughter of Pain Roet, *alias* Guien, King of Armes, and widow of Sir Otes Swynford, Knt. by whom he had issue before marriage, 1st, John, surnamed Beaufort, Earl of Somerset, and Marquis of Dorset; 2d, Henry Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, Cardinal of St. Eusebius, and Chancellor of England; 3d, Joane Beaufort, first married to Ralph Nevile, Earl of Westmoreland, and after to Lord Robert Ferrers.

“ He died seised of the Duchy in the 22d of Richard II. 1398, being the greatest subject of the English crown; so great, that “ *as great as JOHN of GAUNT*” then was, and still remains, one of our English proverbs. At his death, Catherine, his widow, held it for life, and at her death, Henry Plantagenet, son and heir of John of Gaunt, inherited it, who being crowned King by the name of Henry IV. united the whole inheritance of Lancaster unto the Crown, since which, the ducal title of Lancaster hath been drowned in the title of the regal dignity. But, in honor of the House of Lancaster, this King instituted the Duchy-Court; to the end, the lands belonging to the Duchy might in all following times be distinguished and known from the lands of the Crown.”

Aylsham being the capital manor of the Duchy, the Duchy-Court hath been always held there; and whereas, the privileges belonging to those tenants are large, it will not be amiss to speak of them here.

“ Upon the erection of the Duchy-Court by Henry IV. May 4, in the 3d year of his reign, *anno* 1401, the charter of the Duchy was confirmed by King and Parliament, which sets forth, that

“ Edward III. granted for him, and his heirs and suc-
 cessors, to John of Gaunt, Duke of Aquitaine and Lan-
 caster, and Blanch, his wife, that they and the heirs of
 their bodies, and all their tenants of the lands and fees,
 which were in the possession of Henry Earl of Lancaster,
 in the sixteenth year of Edward III. *anno* 1341, should
 be for ever free from panage, passage, paage, lastage,
 stallage, tallage, carriage, pesage, picage, and serage,
 throughout all England, and other places in the King’s
 dominion; and Richard II. granted to the said Duke
 all fines, forfeitures, and amerciaments, of what kind or
 nature soever, of all his men and tenants in the said
 lands or fees, and all estrap and wastes whatsoever in the
 said fees; together with all forfeitures for murder and
 felony committed in the said fees, or by tenants in the
 fees in other men’s lands; and also all the goods of
felons de se, and forfeitures to the Clerk of the Markets,
 in as ample a manner as the said King had them before
 this grant; and further, the said King granted the assize
 of bread, wine, and beer, and all victuals, to be under
 a Clerk of the Markets, appointed by the said Duke,
 and that the King’s Clerks of the Markets shall not
 enter the fees to exercise any jurisdiction there, and that
 the said Duke should have the chattles of all fugitives
 and outlaws in the said fees; the said Duke was also to
 have execution by his own officers of all writs, sum-
 mons, processes, extracts, and precepts, so that no She-
 riff, Bailiff, or other officer of the King, was to enter
 into the liberty, or exercise any office or jurisdiction
 therein, unless in default of due execution by the pro-
 per officers of the liberty; the said Duke was also to
 have waif and stray, deodands, and treasure found in
 the liberty, &c. and Henry IV. confirmed the whole by
 consent of Parliament, and ordained for himself and
 heirs,

“ heirs, that in the whole Duchy of Lancaster all these
 “ royal franchises, privileges, and grants, should for ever
 “ stand valid, and in full force, and be executed by the
 “ proper officers of the Duchy ; and Edward IV. in the
 “ first year of his reign, confirmed all the liberties to the
 “ tenants of the Duchy, as did many of the succeeding
 “ Kings, so that there are now proper officers, as Co-
 “ roners, Stewards, Clerks of the Markets, &c. ap-
 “ pointed for the liberty of the Duchy in the several coun-
 “ ties it extends into.”

The chief town of the *barony or honor of Rhye, or de Rbia*, in this county, is Hingham: The court of the *fee or capital lordship of Richmond* is held at Swaffham, and, *the honor of Clare* is a liberty lately revived.

Air, Soil, Produce, Manufactures, Manners, &c. &c.

The air of this county is of various temperatures in the several parts thereof. By the sea-side it is unwholesome and aguish, particularly so in the hundreds of Flegg and Frechbridge-Marshland, where the soil is boggy and ousy; (so that it is common to say of a stranger, at his first coming into the county, *that he is arrested by Bailiff of Marshland*) and not much better in the towns bordering on Lynn-deep; but as to those parts of the county lying upon the sea-shore, there is no great reason to suppose them very unhealthy, because the sea-coasts are for the most part sandy, and do not suck in nor retain the salt water, as the marishes in Essex and Kent do, which makes the air so corrupt. The inland part of the county being open, is extremely pleasant and salutary, as may be inferred from the many seats of the Nobility and Gentry in it. The
 soil

soil in Norfolk is so extremely various, that it has been considered as an epitome of the whole island. Every part of the county, however, produces either corn or pasture; so that even the worst soil is far from unprofitable. Great quantities of corn are annually produced from the well-cultivated fields.

As to the soil, Dr. Fuller speaks very truly of it, saying, “ All England may be carved out of Norfolk, being represented in it, not only as to the kinds but degrees thereof; for here are fens and heaths, light and deep, sand and clay-grounds, meadow-lands, pastures, and arable, wood-lands and woodless, so taking the country altogether, it affords enough for pleasure and profit; that being supplied in one part which is defective in another.” The fens and marsh-lands are exceeding profitable.

“ The plain, says Camden, called Tilney-Smeeth, not above two miles over, affords sufficient feed for the larger cattle of seven villages and three thousand sheep. It is so boggy, that it is made useful only by a multitude of cuts and drains, over which there are laid one hundred and eleven bridges. The heathy and sandy lands are barren, but serve for two purposes that enrich the inhabitants: First, for harbouring and nourishing rabbits, whose flesh is not only a tender and delicate food, but their skins valuable: Secondly, for feeding sheep, which loving a short grass, delight much in such places. Among our sheep-masters there seems to be a kind peculiar to this county, commonly called *Norfolks*, which are an hardy strong sheep, and bear good fleeces: these sheep in general have black noses and black feet. The heaths, by maintaining great flocks of them, which are continually on them, grazing and folded, are

are made almost as profitable to the people as the tilled ground, supplying them with good mutton and wool; and at the same time so enriching the ground by their dung and folding, that being ploughed up it produces good quantities of corn.

“ Some villages keep 5000 sheep, the woollen manufacture of this county being a great encouragement to husbandmen to enlarge their flocks; and rabbits being a proper improvement for hilly and rocky grounds. The people also are diligent in nourishing and increasing bees, inasmuch that honey in these parts is very plentiful.

“ The light, deep, and clay-grounds are very fruitful in divers sort of grain, as rye and pease, wheat and barley; and near Walsingham it produces very good saffron*. About Winterton, in West Flegg, the fields are looked upon by the skilful in husbandry to be the fattest and lightest in all England, as requiring the least labor, and bringing the greatest increase; for they plough with but one horse†, yet seldom fail of a plentiful crop. By the rivers, which are four or five principal ones, (besides many rivulets and brooks) as the Yare, the Bure, the Thurn, the Waveney, the greater and lesser Ouse, there are many fine meadows and pastures. Near the towns are many springs, groves, and copses, but the champaign country is bare of wood. Mines or minerals here are none, not so much as of coals or stone, but we meet with a sort of clay almost of equal value. A gentleman of this county digging by chance in his ground, turned up a fine clay, which some skilful persons

* Of this Mr. Camden must have been misinformed. Erasmus calls Walsingham PARATHALASSA, from its nearness to the sea.

† As Pliny says of Bizacium in Africa, “ it may be ploughed with a horse of any sort, and an old woman drawing against him.”

sens observing, discovered the value of it to him ; where-upon sending it into Holland, where they made a choice sort of earthen ware of it, he made 10,000*l.* sterling of a piece of ground not forty yards square*.” Dr. Fuller tells this story, but suspects the sum, as having a cypher too much, which, though true, does not altogether detract from its worth.

Camden mentions “ the catching of hawks,—the abundance of fish,—with the jett and amber commonly found upon the coast of Hunstanton.”

Of the natural produce of this county, rabbits is no inconsiderable article. At *Metbavold* the best rabbits in England are bred, and are called by the poulterers “ Mewill rabbits.” It has been remarkable for breeding these creatures ever since the reign of Canute, (1016 to 1036) and at present sends great numbers of them to the London markets. From Beecham-well the markets in Norfolk are supplied. Great numbers are also bred about Castle-Rising, Thetford, Winterton, and Sherringham.

The rabbits of this county are of a fine silver-coloured bluish-grey, the fur or wool of which in the strength and staple of it, is not equalled by any other, Lincoln excepted, and is therefore procured by all manufacturers, in order to mix with the produce of other counties, more closely to unite and strengthen the manufacture of hats.

The butter and wool markets in Norfolk are very considerable, particularly at Downham, Watton, Stoke-Ferry, Swaffham, Wisbech, and Brandon.

WYMONDHAM.

† Here again, we think, Mr. Camden must err.

WYMONDHAM was remarkable for its manufacture of wooden-ware, as spindles, spoons, spiggots and faucets, &c. but the inhabitants are now principally employed in the Norwich stuff trade.

REEPHAM, and many places in this county, are famous for making barley-malt, of which great quantities are bought by the London dealers.—We wish we could say as much in praise of the malt-liquor brewed in Norfolk.

NORWICH, though one of the first manufacturing towns in England, hath a great part of the labor done in the country towns all over the county of Norfolk, and even in Suffolk. Here vast quantities of worsted-stuffs, bays, serges, shalloons, crapes, camblets and druggets, duffields and fearnoughts are made, besides many other curious articles; from the sale of which above two hundred thousand pounds are annually received by this city.—[The reader will find this more fully explained in our History of Norwich, vol. X. of this work.]

YARMOUTH is renowned for its fishery of herrings and mackarel, besides cod, haddocks, &c. in their proper seasons. Great quantities of herrings are cured here, and the shipping carry on the trade of the Norwich manufactures to the Baltic, Ostend, &c. Immense quantities of flour, malt, &c. are exported, and the import is very considerable,—of coals, deals, wine, groceries, and naval stores.

AYLSHAM is said to carry on a considerable manufacture in making of stockings.

CROMER is noted for its plentiful fishery of lobsters, which are sent to the markets in Norfolk, and to London, &c.

BURNHAM produces an oyster of a large size in abundance, which is sent into several counties west of Lynn. This and the neighbouring ports carry on a good corn trade.

WORSTED, now a small town, gave name to the manufacture of that stuff, but is now quite destitute of employ. Dornicks, cameric, calecut, &c. had in like manner their denomination from the places they were first invented and made.

BRANCASTER exports corn and malt, and here is the largest malt-house in England.

BLAKENEY and CLEY are also fishing towns.

LYNN-REGIS is a port of great trade: the very valuable cargoes of wine, timber, coal, and foreign spirits, brought in here is immense, as is also the export of corn, &c. and its commerce by inland navigation is equal to any in the kingdom. Spelman says of Lynn, " that Ceres and Bacchus seem to have established their magazines here."

THETFORD carries on a considerable branch of the woollen trade. It has also a paper-mill, and does a good deal of business by the navigation of the Ouse river.

SWAFFHAM, say many geographers, was famous for a considerable manufactory in the making of spurs, but this does not now, and, we believe, *never* did exist—but in the
brain

brain of some ill-informed writer. Physicians call this place " the Montpellier of England."

WELLS carries on a considerable corn trade when the ports are open for exportation, as vast quantities are sold by the farmers to the merchants here. The coal and raff-trade is also good.

FAKENHAM, says an English traveller, was noted in former times for its salt-pits, although it is ten miles from the sea. Nothing yet appears to induce us to believe this.

DISS, HARLESTON, and HARLING, are remarkable only for the manufacture of linen yarn and cloth.

Fires have done more towards beautifying many of the towns in Norfolk than any other cause. Without this calamitous element neither Swaffham, East-Dereham, Watton, Hingham, nor Wymondham, would have been remarked for their neatness, handsome buildings, or fashionable inhabitants. As a sudden inundation of water sometimes carries away bridges which were perilous to travellers, so an accidental conflagration levels buildings, which a taste for improvement and personal safety had long yearned to see removed.

The waters, both salt and fresh, yield very great convenience to the inhabitants by fish and navigation. On the sea-coasts is the herring-fishery, which brings so much trade and wealth to Yarmouth. It begins in September, when that fish* generally swarms upon these shores.

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* Herrings, for so they generally call them, says Camden, though the learned think them to be the *CHALCIDES* and the *LEUCOMÆNIDES*.

They come by the north of Scotland in vast shoals, and pass through the narrow seas by the Land's-end of Cornwall, and what are not caught return into the north again. Mackarel here are also caught in the spring in great numbers; so that the sea brings this county, besides the ordinary and daily markets for fish in the villages and towns by the sea-side, two great fairs of herrings and mackarel.

Nor do the fresh waters of this county yield less profit to the inhabitants. The Bure is full of fish, and by its overflowing the lower grounds, makes not only rich meadows, but many noble fisheries. In it are found a most excellent sort of perch. The inhabitants of Ranworth, which stands near to the river, report, that one hundred and twenty bushels of fish were caught there by two nets at one time. The like are the Ouse, Waveney, and Yare, in which last there is a peculiar fish, called a *ruffe*; and because the English by that word express the Latin *asperum*, John Caius termed it *Aspredo*. The body of this fish is all over rough, with sharp prickles and prickly fins. It delights in sandy places like the perch, and is of nearly the same bigness. Its colour on the back is brown and dusky, but on the belly it is of a pale yellow. It is marked on the jaws with double semicircular rings; the upper part of the eye of a dark brown colour, the lower yellow, and the ball of it black; and a line goes along the back, and is fastened to the body, as if it were a thread; the tail and fins are spotted with black. When this fish is angry the fins stand up stiff, and fall flat again when its anger is over. The flesh of it is very wholesome, and eats tender and short, being in this last respect much like a perch. It is very rarely found in any other rivers.

The

The inhabitants of this county are strong and robust, sharp and cunning. The food of the commonalty consists much of puddings and dumplings, which has produced the proverb of *Norfolk dumplings*, as the eating beans so much in Leicestershire has proverbially nick-named the people *Leicestershire Bean-bellies*, and in Lincolnshire *Yellow-bellies*. Nor need they be ashamed of their food, it being certainly the wholesomest and most nourishing to the human body.

“ The inhabitants of Norfolk, says the writer of the English Traveller, have been long celebrated for their healthy constitutions, which is said to be owing to their eating such vast quantities of dumplings, that the expression, *dumpling*, of late has become a proverbial phrase, when the people in other parts speak of a Norfolk man. It is no uncommon thing for them to take a dumpling, after it is well boiled, and having dipped it in goose’s grease, immediately eat it, as pleasantly as if it were the most delicious morsel in the universe.

“ It is, however, a rule, both in physic and the *Materia Medica*, that if people will habituate themselves to the eating of grosser sorts of food than common, they must join to it strong exercise, otherwise there immediately ensues a stagnation of the fluids, which either ends in a corruption of the internal parts, or operates on the external surface, in such a manner as to deform the appearance, and render the whole of the human body extremely disagreeable. However, for all that, the people in Norfolk are as healthy as any of their neighbours: but whether in consequence of an additional degree of exercise, or from what other cause, we are not able to learn.”

“ Mr,

“ Mr. Camden hath a piece of natural history of this country, “ that it is a nursery of attornies, and that the country people have a great genius to that sort of polemical learning.” And this, says Bishop Gibson, is confirmed by Spelman and Speed. “ The *Norfolk* men are counted industrious, and generally so successful in the study of the common law, that most people wish rather to have a *Norfolk* man their counsel—than adversary*.” From Varro he observes “ that the goodness of the soil may be collected from the bright, clear complexion of the inhabitants; not to mention their shortness of wit, and singular capacity in the study of our common law.” By goodness of soil, both Varro and himself must mean healthful, he could not otherwise have singled out Norfolk for what the present age calls good. The wholesome air may naturally produce a sharpness of wit; but Henry the Sixth’s act against the exercise of it, restraining the number of attornies, hath given it another turn. Nature seems to have designed this county for health and rural diversions, as much as any in the island; and though it produceth not crops equal to a better staple, it hath the advantage of navigation in lieu of it. The lands by new improvements of sowing grafs and turnips, have *cleared up the complexion* of the husbandman; and the vast numbers of sheep kept here at a small expence, especially since they have a winter feed of turnips for them, stock the counties quite to London, and bring in a good profit. It is *Vervicum patria*, but not *crasso sub acre*. The reason of the free growth of the law here must have been the plenty of copyholders, and the chance to come in for court-keeping; as the plenty of hares here produces plenty of greyhounds. The beauty and agreeableness of these plains is exceeded by none †.

This

* Geographical Dictionary.

† Salmon’s New Survey of England, page 163.

This county hath some herbs peculiar to itself, or very rarely found, growing wild, in other counties, as

1. *Artiplex Maritima*, &c. Sea-Orrache, with small basil leaves, found near Lynn-Regis.

2. *Acorus Verus*, &c. The sweet-smelling flag or calamus, found in the river Yare, near Norwich.

3. *Lychnis Viscosa*, &c. The Spanish catchfly, found near Thetford, plentifully.

4. *Spongia Ramosa Fluvialis*, Branched river-sponge, found in the river Yare, below Norwich.

5. *Turritis*, Tower-mustard, found in the hedges, near Acle.

6. *Verbascum Pulverulentum*, &c. Hoary mullein, about the walls of Norwich.

7. *Vermicularis Futrex Minor*, Shrub stone-crop, found on the sea-coast of Norfolk.

8. *Urtica Romana*, The Roman nettle, growing about Yarmouth.

9. *Medica Sylvestris*, Wood-claver, a different sort, with a purplish flower, like Burgundy trefoil or faintfoil, observed to grow in the highway, a little distance from Norwich. The common sort usually bears a yellow flower.

10. *Ebulum*, found in South Creak, called by the inhabitants Dane-blood, as if it were the product of the blood spilt here in an engagement between the Danes and Saxons.

11. *Wild Pints*, found near Norwich.

12. *Venus's Looking-glass*, near Cromer.

13. *Butter-*

13. *Butter-wort*, on the heaths in general.
14. *Leffer-headed Milford*, near Caſtor.
15. *Dwarf Elder*, near Norwich.
16. *Hog's Fennel*, near Yarmouth.
17. *Black currants*, near Horsford.
18. *Cran-berries*, in many different parts.
19. *Small Corn-catchfly*, in the fields near Norwich.
20. *Great Booterd*, near Wells.
21. *Common Club Moſs*, in many places.
22. *Sea Ragged Staff*, near Cley.
23. *Spleen-wort*, on many country church-walls.
24. *Salid Puff-ball*, in Holkham Park.
25. *Smorb Chara*, near Heydon.

The inhabitants of Norfolk are ſo much attached to the *ſports of the field*, that the *turf* is not much encouraged. Few or no Gentlemen in the county keep running-horſes, and the annual races at Swaffham, and at Thetford, are attended chiefly by Ladies and Gentlemen on parties of pleaſure, and, as a feſtive meeting more than *to pick pockets*; for ſuch we deem all games—but *games of chance*. Cock-fighting (for the honor of Norfolk) is not much followed: Nor do we find any irrational exerciſe, if we except kemping and wreſtling, in practice. By the bye, we do not feel a *penchant* for hunting, ſhooting, nor fiſhing—as SPORTS: Nor do we think they can be juſtified on any principle of natural or revealed reaſon: But *faſhion*, that hydra of folly, and cuſtom, that eſtabliſhed law of fools, will reconcile

concile the greatest absurdities ! Religion and morality for bid taking any life *wantonly*, yet leave a discretionary power of doing it *necessarily*. Those fierce and sanguinary animals that inhabit the forest are fair game for man, but what have we to apprehend from the affrighted hare, the fresh-water fish, the beautiful pheasant, or partridge ? Nature, nay, humanity, recoils at the idea of their destruction—in *sport*. That their lives should be taken *necessarily* we admit, but let it not be done—in *sport*. The untutor'd native of the Asiatic plains, or mountains of America, would not kill—but for food and for raiment, or in self-defence.

The author of a late dramatic production has portrayed the character of a tenacious “ Lord of the Manor,” with respect to GAME, in colours so just and lively, that we cannot forbear adding his to our own observations.

“ Searchum, get warrants immediately for seizing guns, nets, and snares, let every dog in the parish be collected for hanging to-morrow morning—give them a taste of Norfolk discipline.

“ I hope, Sir, you will be better advised than to proceed so rashly.

“ Where is your qualification ?

“ In my birth-right as a free-man.—Nature gave the birds of the air in common to us all ; and I think it no crime to pursue them, when my heart tells me I am ready, if called upon, to exercise the same gun against the enemies of my King and country.

“ Take notice that I require unconditional submission in my supremacy of the game.

—————. “ In what manner, Sir ?

—————. “ The county gaol shall teach transgressors—thanks to my fellow sportsmen in the Senate, we have as good a system of game laws as can be found in the most gentleman-like country upon the continent.

—————. “ By gentleman-like I am afraid, Sir, you mean arbitrary.

—————. “ In France the insignia of a Lord Paramount of the chace are gallowses, with his arms upon every hill in his estate—they embellish a prospect better than the finest clump Browne ever planted.”

* * * * *

Besides the established church, there are in Norfolk meeting-houses for Presbyterians, Anabaptists, Quakers, Independents, Methodists, &c. and in Norwich there is a church for the Dutch, and another for French-Flemings: also, chapels for Roman Catholics.

The quarter-sessions for the county of Norfolk are held in the Shire-house on the Castle-hill of Norwich four times a year, viz. in January, April, July, and October. The summer assizes, and monthly county-courts, are also held in the Shire-house. The Castle is the county-gaol for debtors and felons, and although in the centre of Norwich, belongs to, and is within the jurisdiction of Norfolk only. It was first committed to the custody of the High-sheriff of the county of Norfolk, as a common prison, in the 1st year of Edward IV. 1460.

In 1284, Edward I. 12. a statute passed, making the hundreds in each county answerable for all robberies committed in day-time.

In 1251, Henry III. 35. this county, and most parts of England, was visited by a severe drought, succeeded by
damps

damps and foul air, which brought on contagious disorders amongst the cattle, and ruined the harvest; in so much, that a dreadful famine and plague ensued.

The following are the prices of certain articles at different periods of time, *estimated according to the value of the present money*:

In 930, a sheep, 12s. 6d. the fleece, 5s.—an ox, 3l. 15s.—a cow, 2l. 10s.—a horse, 18l.—nursing of a child the first year, 4l. In 966, an acre of land, 10s.—a palfrey, 6l. In 980, an ox, 3l. 15s.—a cow, 3l. In 1252, a good horse, 15l. In 1327, an ox, lean, 2l. 8s.—fat, 3l. 12l.—a fat hog, two years old, 10s.—a fat weather-sheep, unshorn, 5s.—shorn, 3s. 6d.—a fat goose, 7d. $\frac{1}{2}$ —ditto capon, 6d.—ditto hen, 3d.—two chickens, 3d.—four pigeons, 3d.—twenty-four eggs, 3d. In 1450, wheat, 3l. 6s. 8d. per quarter—barley 1l. 10l. In 1547, beef and pork, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.—mutton and veal, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. In 1620, the pay of a foot soldier, 8d. a day—a Lieutenant, 2s.—an Ensign, 1s. 6d.—a cock turkey, 4s. 6d.—a hen ditto, 3s.—a goose, 2s.—a capon, 2s. 6d.—a pullet, 1s. 6d.—a rabbit, 8d.—a dozen pigeons, 6s.—wheat, 32s. per quarter.—barley, 16s.—wool, a third more than the present price—a yard of velvet, 1l. 2s.—fine Holland, 8s. per yard.

N. B. From the Conquest to the reign of Elizabeth, money was nearly ten times its present value; from Elizabeth to the present time, nearly equal.

Norfolk is, generally speaking, a cheap and plentiful county. The gentry live in a splendid and hospitable manner; the tradesmen and farmers exceed those of any other county, in what is termed *good living*; and the laborer and mechanic come in for a comfortable share of the

lawes and fishes. The inhabitants of Norfolk, says Mr. B. Martin, are remarkable for the sprightliness of their genius, industry, and riches, and are, for the most part, strong, healthy, and well made.

The markets are regularly and plentifully supplied with provisions of every kind, and no county in the kingdom produces poultry in such abundance, nor of such quality; —as few of the citizens of London but can testify. Poultry and game to an immense value are sent in presents annually from the inhabitants of this county to their friends in London, and its environs, particularly at Christmas. The pork of this county is much admired by the epicurean connoisseurs; and culinary vegetables and roots (if we except potatoes) are excellent. We have already observed that the malt liquor of Norfolk is worse than in most other counties, but this must be understood of the *common* breweries; as no better ale can be met with in any part of the kingdom than is made at the houses of private families.

For the better support, maintenance, and relief of the poor of both sexes and all ages, *Houses of Industry* have been erected and regulated by Acts of Parliament, at Gressenhall for the hundreds of Launditch and Mitford, at Wicklewood for Forchoe, at Rollesby for East and West Flegg, and at Heckingham for the hundred of Loddon. Mr. Gilbert* has lately brought into Parliament a bill for extending, and for better regulating Houses of Industry throughout the kingdom, which, we doubt not, will meet with that investigation and improvement a business of so much importance merits, from the guardians of the people.

Norfolk hath produced as many great and eminent personages in war, law, learning, and politics, as most counties;

* Member for Litchfield.

ties; and very few can boast so many ancient and honorable families: Indeed, this remark receives additional lustre when we consider, that personal worth and great abilities, and not high-sounding titles, are the distinguishing cast which characterizes the gentry of Norfolk.

Lord Chief-justice Coke was perhaps the greatest lawyer, and Sir Robert Walpole the greatest statesman any country hath bred. Sir Henry Spelman as an antiquary, Sir John Fastolf as a warrior, and Sir Roger L'Esrange as a poet, will live in the annals of this country—to perpetuity.

The particular history of each town in the county will furnish the reader with anecdotes of the lives, achievements, and writings of those men who were born, or inherited property therein. Of the ancient families of Norfolk many are now quite gone, and their names extinct: others are so far removed, and spread into collateral branches, as scarcely to leave a trace to the origin.

Although Norfolk hath the fewest Peers *residing* in it of any county of its size and consequence in the kingdom, yet it can boast of having the *Premier* Duke, Earl, Baron, and Baronet, of England.

It was observed to us by a very respectable gentleman, lately deceased, that there are in Norfolk more *resident proprietors* of four hundred pounds a year, landed estate, than in any other county in England; for which he instanced the number of gentlemen qualified to be Deputy Lieutenants.

Amongst the seats of the nobility and gentry in Norfolk, none are more worthy of particular notice than Houghton, Holkham, Rainham, Blickling, Melton-Constable, Wolterton,

erton, and Kimberley, for dignity, elegance, and extent. Langley, Gunton, Felbrigg, Garboldisham, Buckenham-house, Westacre, Coffey, Hethel, Heydon, Merton, Oxburgh, Kirby-Bedon, Narborough, Narford, West-Tofts, Bixley, Ditchingham, Harling, Quidenham, Elmham, Westwick, Beeston St. Lawrence, Witton, Earsham, Shadwell-Lodge, Warham, Lynford, Honingham, Rackheath, Raveningham, Pickenham, Sandringham, Eccles, and many others, are deservedly esteemed for the taste in which they are embellished.

This county abounds with many ancient castles and manorial-houses, formerly the seats of great and able men; who, according to the custom of the times, lived in that stile of magnificence which their wealth, power, or disposition, rendered habitual. The unsettled state of public affairs, the extreme ignorance of the bulk of the people, and the vast powers given to the Lord over the feudatory, were strong incentives to acts which would now be condemned—as arbitrary and unconstitutional! The bare mention of *villainage, and liberty of gallows*, makes a modern Briton shudder with indignant sympathy for those mortals who were obliged to bend to the manners of the feudal times.—How much happier are we in the present age, who feel a consequence which neither wealth, power, nor disposition, can annoy—even in the humblest state of society.

Though Kenninghall, Castle-Rising, Wood-Rising, and Blickling, have occasionally been the residence of royalty since the Conquest, yet Thetford seems to have been the only scite of a *palace*. Henry I. built a country seat there, which remained till the reign of James I. when it

it was pulled down, and one more magnificent built in its room, still known by the name of the *King's-House*.

The Bishops of Norwich had formerly a palace at Ludham, which was granted to the see by Henry VIII. but on August 10, 1611, it was consumed by fire, and the diocesan palace is now at Norwich.

Of the most remarkable buildings in the county we have illustrated their descriptions by views, drawn and engraved for that purpose. Perspective delineations of the religious and castelled houses, now ruinous, have also been published by S. and N. Buck, F. Grosse, ——— Millecent, T. Kirkpatrick, &c. and others are now publishing.

Mr. Richard Gough, in his “Anecdotes of British Topography,” hath given the world a very copious collection of manuscripts and prints of the history, antiquities, surveys, &c. of Norfolk, which we, at first sight, meant to have methodized and improved for a section of this work; but we afterwards found the materials so diffuse, and many of them *trifling*,—to an extreme disgraceful to polite literature, that we laid aside our intention—to make room for more *useful* information.

This county not only contains the greatest number of parish-churches of any in the three kingdoms, but also exceeds any other in population; and the vast resources the army finds by the recruiting service is almost beyond conception:—And no men make better soldiers.

Though longevity is one of those blessings which are the result from a light soil and pure air, yet we do not find instances of very long life in Norfolk: People live to what is called *a good round age*. At Rome, *anno Dni. 47.*
several

several persons were found, on examination, to be from 100 to 140 years old, and two were advanced to 150. In 1635 Thomas Par died in England, aged 153. He lived in ten reigns.

Lands, Culture, &c.

This county may be considered as naturally consisting of four different sorts of land, *viz.* the *sand-land*, the *wood-land*, the *marsh-land*, and the *fielding*. The SAND-LANDS lie chiefly about Castle-Rising, Darlington, and Snettisham;—about Methwold, Weeting, Croxton, and Thetford.

A considerable tract of land between Cromer and Cley may be called sand-land: As also, that to the south and west of Swaffham. In the neighbourhood of Norwich are several lands inclining to the sand-land; and at Rougham we have seen a piece *drift*. What is called the Meals, or Marum-hills, along the coast from Yarmouth to Happisburgh, and from Cley harbour to Hunstanton are composed of sea-sand.

The WOOD-LANDS are various, and difficult to distinguish; for, there are few woods of extent; and trees only in hedge-rows, which viewed at some distance, optically, gives the country the appearance of being woody. The hundreds of South Erpingham, Eynsford, Humbleyard, Wayland, Guiltcross, Clavering, and Earsham, contain much wood, as do also many parts of the other hundreds. Of modern plantations, the north-west and south-west parts of the county exceed the rest;—and yet, a vast deal more *in that way* might be done—to great advantage. What is
called

called the wood-land part is generally dirty, but is very rich and fruitful.

The MARSH-LANDS, besides that whole tract of country comprehended in the Bedford-level, and in Freebridge-Marshland, extends from Yarmouth up the rivers Bure, Waveney, and Yare, to Coltishall, Bungay, and Norwich; and also up the Thurn and Ant. Both salt and fresh marshes are to be met with on the coast, particularly between Hunstanton and Blakeney, and from Snettisham to Walpole. The marsh-lands are naturally fruitful, feeding great numbers of sheep and oxen; and sometimes, when ploughed, afford greater crops of corn than any other land; but many of the marshes in Flegg and Happening being common-land, are much neglected—through obstinacy and illiberal prejudices.

The FIELDING part of Norfolk, though daily decreasing, is still very great: in Smithdon, Brothercrofts, Grimshoe, North Greenhoe, Freebridge-Lynn, and Shropham; and in Blofield, Walsingham, and Loddon, it is chiefly; and, we hope to find less of it in a few years. Some parts of it is in sheep-walk, and the rest affords good corn; but the tillage is both troublesome and expensive, on account of the vast number of small pieces into which property is divided.

Of ARABLE and HEATH-LANDS. The arable is in many places naturally good for tillage, and produces abundant crops of all sorts of corn and grain; and where it seems in a manner barren, it is fit for improvement by chalk, clay, marle, and crag. The heath-lands are in general good sheep-walk, but might be turned to greater

advantage by tillage-enclosure ; but, so tenacious are the lower class of people of what *they* esteem their “ rights and privileges,” that few gentlemen have as yet dared to “ do as they pleased with their own property :” And those few who have, met with so much opposition, that others have sacrificed their own judgment and interests to *popular clamour*.

The heath and marsh commons in Norfolk may reasonably be computed at 100,000 acres ; two-thirds of which consist of the best land, either for grassing, or tillage, yet allowed to remain in a state, equally uncultivated and unprofitable!—Unprofitable, because they yield but forage for a few lean sheep, a solitary ass, or precarious flock of poultry,—and uncultivated, because there are so many ignorant prejudices to remove. To us, the idea of a person's being *robbed* of a self-created property, which he enjoys by *leave*, or *custom*, and not by purchase, or hereditary claim, appears too ridiculous to operate in the mind of any person of common sense: We must, therefore, say of the *common-creakers*, as Mr. Glover said of the Scots in the House of Commons, “ That they have every sense—but COMMON SENSE.” Our computation of common-grounds will not appear exaggerated, when it is considered, that the average to each parish-town in the county is but 138 acres, whilst we can point out a great many towns that have from 500 to 1000 acres, and some more.—One hundred thousand acres is equal to 156 square miles.

To this great *waste* of land, we may add 10,000 miles of ROADS in Norfolk, one-half of which are quite unnecessary ; and these, at an average width of 24 feet, amount to 29,091 acres, or 39½ square miles: But even an improvement in this way occasions much dissatisfaction ; and

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we have known instances, where roads have been put by, by authority, and others made, much shorter and more convenient, yet the measure was reprobated! To speak of improvements, is to raise a hue and cry amongst those who dread an invasion of common-sense—more than of the French.

We might produce abundance of facts (and facts are stubborn arguments) to support our opinion on the subject of enclosing waste-lands, but the advantages of *improvement* are so obvious, that further proof seems unnecessary.

In our observations, we hope, the reader will acquit us of any partiality or improper motive,—*general utility* being our ultimate wish; for, we consider it to be the peculiar privilege, and duty, of every writer to promote enquiry with judgment, and exercise opinion with discretion.

The county, says Camden, is large, and almost all champaign, except in some places where there arise gentle hills. 'Tis very rich, well stored with flocks of sheep, and abounds with conies. The soil is different according to the several quarters; in some places fat, luscious, and full of moisture, as in Marshland and Flegg; in others, especially to the West, it is poor, lean, and sandy; and in others clayey, and chalky. The soil is more various than perhaps that of any other county, and comprehends all the sorts that are to be found in the island; arable, pasture, meadow, wood-lands, light sandy ground, deep clays, heaths, and fens.

The Norfolk system of husbandry, or present state of agriculture, has been scientifically and experimentally treated of by Mr. Arthur Young, in his “Farmer’s Tour through the Eastern Counties,” and by others, with a

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knowledge

knowledge of the subject so much superior to ours, that we decline entering further into the arcanum; well knowing, that where we might be disposed to condemn a practice, which want of skill had rooted, and long custom nutried into a *prejudice*, all endeavours to eradicate would prove inefficacious.

The farmers of Norfolk have long, and very justly, been esteemed the best in the kingdom—for management; but we do not think for experiment: and *experiment* is the soul of improvement! The lateness of their harvest is attempted to be accounted for by an author, who says, “ Here the air is somewhat sharp, whereby the spring and harvest are the more backward,” notwithstanding which, we have the concurring opinions of many impartial judges, who say, that the corn (especially wheat) is not cut down so early as it *ought* to be, nor got in with that alacrity it *might* be. The method of planting and rearing quicks in Norfolk and Suffolk is condemned by most of the northern counties; and what proves it beyond a possibility of doubt, is the very indifferent hedge-fences to be seen in most parts of Norfolk and Suffolk.*

Few farmers there are who consider the influence of climate on vegetable bodies. They sow, they reap, because *custom* hath established periods; but they reason not philosophically on the nature and effect of air, and the seasons.

Vegetation, in every part of the earth, bears a certain general proportion to the Sun’s influence on the elementary system.

* In Norfolk the bank is raised from two deep ditches, the top thin, and the quicks set on the slope. In the northern counties the bank is much lower and broader, and the quicks set on the top, and fenced by battens on each side. In Norfolk they cut and scour, but they cut and ~~slash~~ the hedges in the northern and mid-land counties.

system. That air is necessary to vegetation is certain, but the ingredient in it of the best quality is not so well understood. Water through the atmosphere is preferable to pump or river water, and all plants exposed, absorb a nutriment with the atmospherical air in their phlogificated state.

We shall here take the liberty of adding some observations on the influence of climate on animal bodies.

Dr. Wilson observes, on the theory of the operation of putrid effluvium from marshes, “ that animal bodies have a strong natural tendency to putrefaction, and would actually run into it, unless prevented by the discharge of their most putrescent parts.” Dr. Priestly on air, shews “ that air inhaled by inspiration receives a charge of phlogiston from the blood, which is discharged by expiration.” Dr. Alexander endeavours to prove, “ that effluvia from marshes act as antiseptics and correctors of putrefaction,” but Dr. Wilson denies this position. “ All marshy grounds (says he) and stagnated waters, emit a smell more or less disagreeable from the vegetable substances which ferment and rot in them; this mixture of humidity, fixed air, and putrid vapour, contains a certain degree of phlogiston in this climate.” “ Those vapours impregnate the surrounding atmosphere, and disable it from carrying off from the lungs the putrid vapour and phlogiston in such abundance as may be necessary to prevent an accumulation in the body; in consequence of which, putrid diseases come on, not from the matter taken into the body, but from that retained which ought to be expelled, and would actually be so in a purer air.”

“ The strong antiseptic qualities of the air discharged by the vegetable fermentations, seem fully to counteract the
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the septic tendency of the putrid effluvium from marshes, when applied to dead animal substance, even should there be small portions of putrid animal matter, in swampy or marshy grounds; yet these substances will exceedingly contribute to the impregnation of the air, and consequently to its bad effects on living animal bodies, by respiration.—Fixed air is unfit for the purposes of respiration, though an antiseptic of very considerable efficacy.

The soil of Norfolk is in general a very light sandy loam, which in years that are more inclined to wet than dryness, throws out immense crops, the very wettest that can come is not too much for their lands: every one, we believe, will allow that the chances of the seasons, in this moist climate, are infinitely more in their favor, than if their soil was of the heavy cast.

Marling hath wrought great improvements; for, under the whole country run veins of a very rich soapy kind. Farms are large, and the rents low in some places; but we must confess, that the *times* are much against farmers. Monopoly of farms, and encrease of rent, are not the only evil; prodigality and temerity hath taken possession of the honest, plain, industrious tenant;—the consequences are fatal to many.

Societies for the encouragement of agriculture have been established in many parts of the kingdom, particularly at Bath, in Yorkshire, and in Norfolk; and the society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce, instituted at London in 1753, have liberally, and very beneficially, bestowed premiums *for planting and husbandry*.

Norfolk

*Norfolk Society for the Encouragement of
Agriculture.*

“ As it is found that the society established in London for the encouragement of agriculture cannot adapt itself to the several circumstances of different counties, and as few farmers can receive any advantage from it, a society is formed, the whole attention of which will be directed to the county of Norfolk.

“ Great benefits have been experienced from societies of this kind, instituted in other parts of England; in which by raising a spirit of improvement, agriculture has received great advantages. Equal advantages, it is presumed, may be received in this county. Notwithstanding the progress made here in the turnip husbandry, and in the excellent management of light arable lands, there are many other branches of husbandry to which we have not paid equal attention. But supposing the Norfolk husbandry to be equally perfect in all its parts, who will be so hardy as to assert that we are now arrived at the *ne plus ultra* of improvement. The objects of this society are, to raise by premiums a spirit of emulation and improvement in such parts of husbandry as seem most to require it; to endeavour to encrease the national produce of corn, by bringing into cultivation in the least expensive and most effectual manner such lands as are at present barren; particularly by draining, and the introduction of various sorts of vegetable food for cattle, and by distributing rewards to those who shall raise the largest and best crops of the several species of grain; to promote the knowledge of agriculture, by encouraging and directing regular experiments on those subjects

jects which are of most importance in it ; to extend this knowledge by publishing the result of these experiments in the county papers. And by a correspondence with the provincial societies established for this or the like purposes in other parts of the kingdom, to acquire and diffuse the best and most certain method of proceeding in every branch of husbandry. The degree in which these objects can be obtained, must depend upon the degree of encouragement which the undertaking shall receive from the public : It is therefore requested that all such gentlemen, farmers, and others, as are disposed to support it, will signify their intention with such sums as each person may respectively choose to subscribe to the Treasurer, or to Messrs. Alday and Kerrison, Bankers, in Norwich.

Rules and Orders of the Society.

I. That there be one President, twelve Vice-Presidents, one Treasurer, and Secretary ;—To be chosen at the annual meeting in the assize-week, at Norwich.

II. That there be an annual meeting on the Saturday in every assize-week, in Norwich, and also that there be a quarterly meeting on the Saturday in each county-sessions week, at twelve o'clock precisely.

III. An extraordinary general meeting may be called at any time, notice being given by advertising two succeeding weeks in the Norwich Papers, at the request, and under the signature of ten subscribers.

IV. That a committee of the whole society shall meet at the Coffee-house in Norwich, on the Saturday preceding each general meeting, at four o'clock in the afternoon,
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in order to prepare business, and that any three members be a committee.

V. That the committee may adjourn if necessary.

VI. None to be admitted at meetings but members of the society without leave of the majority of the members present.

VII. At all meetings business shall begin with reading the minutes of the preceding meeting, but no part of such minutes shall be discussed till the whole has been read through. The minutes shall then be read a second time, and no new matter shall be proposed till the said minutes have been discussed article by article, and all parts of the minutes which shall not be objected to at the second reading shall stand confirmed, and be signed by the then presiding member.

VIII. That any person paying the sum of ten guineas to the society shall be a member for life.

IX. The annual subscriptions to commence from the 1st day of January, 1774, and new subscriptions in succeeding years to commence from the 1st of January preceding.

X. No person to be a member, or to have a right to vote, if his subscription is more than three months in arrear.

XI. All members shall take their places when the society proceeds to business; and when any member speaks he shall address himself to the chair.

XII. No question shall be put on any motion unless the motion be seconded.

XIII. No motion that has been rejected shall be made again in less than twelve months from the time of its being rejected.

XIV. No premium shall be offered till it has been approved by a general meeting.

XV. No premium or bounty shall be given to any candidate unless recommended to the general meeting by a committee.

XVI. When two or more members offer to speak together, the presiding member shall determine who shall speak first.

XVII. At all meetings of the society no member shall speak more than twice upon the same question, unless called upon to explain himself by the presiding member.

XVIII. When any matter is in debate, if a member shall speak to new business, the presiding member shall call him to order.

XIX. The member who speaks to order shall be first heard.

XX. All claims of premiums, petitions, and memorials, to be lodged with the Secretary, at least 14 days before the meeting at which they are to be taken into consideration, that the Secretary may have time to prepare the business.

XXI. The society to reserve to themselves a power to give in all cases such part only of any premium as the performance shall be judged to deserve; or in case of want of merit, to withhold the premium entirely.

XXII. A

XXII. A candidate for a premium, or a person applying for a bounty, being detected in any attempt to impose upon the society, shall forfeit such premium or bounty, and shall be incapable of obtaining any for the future.

N. B. The three last rules to be always inserted in the publication of the premiums of the year.

XXIII. No member of the society who is a candidate for, or interested in a premium, or bounty, shall be present while the subject is under consideration; unless called upon to answer questions, after which to withdraw.

XXIV. The committee may desire the assistance of such gentlemen, farmers, and others, though not members, as shall be best able to judge of, and discover the truth and value of any thing for which a premium or bounty is to be given.

XXV. No instrument, printed book, or other thing belonging to the society, shall be lent without an order of the society or committee.

XXVI. The committees are to consider such subjects as are most proper to be encouraged by premiums; and to digest such other matter as may be thought proper, to be recommended to the consideration of the general meetings.

XXVII. Not less than twenty members may make or alter laws, nor less than seven proceed to business at the general meetings; the President, or one of the Vice Presidents to be present, and the presiding member shall take the chair immediately after seven members shall attend.

Premiums offered by the society are arranged under five heads, viz.—Class I. *Improvement of land*.—Class II. *In-*

crease of produce.—Class III. *Improvement and increase of the breed of cattle and sheep.*—Class IV. *Experiments.*—Class V. *Encouragement of industry.*

The following resolutions of the Society are ordered to be published with the premiums.

Resolved, That all members of the society be requested to communicate to the society, in writing, their observations upon any defect or wrong management in the agriculture of their respective neighbourhoods, and their opinions concerning the best means of remedying such defect.

That all members of the society be requested to communicate to the society, in writing, those experiments which they have already made, or may at any time hereafter make in any branch of husbandry, which promise success, and seem likely to be productive of advantage to the public.

That every person who has been a subscribing member of this society, shall be deemed to continue as such (according to his last subscription) unless he shall give notice in writing to the Secretary of declining, or reducing his subscription, on or before the 1st day of January in the succeeding year.

That all members of the society be requested to communicate to the society in writing, their opinions relative to all or any of the premiums, in order (if they are in any particular exceptionable) that they may be better adapted to the general circumstances of the county.

Sir HARBORD HARBORD, Bart. President.

Rev. EDWARD HOWMAN, Secretary.

Of the Turnpike and Statute Roads.

Although this county claims the credit of having made the first turnpike road in the kingdom, yet most other countries have since done more in that way. The following are the only turnpike-roads extant in Norfolk, 1781 :

From Norwich to Thetford	-	29 miles
Ditto to Swaffham	- -	28
And to Mattishall	- -	4
West Bilney to Lynn-Regis		9
Norwich to Yarmouth	-	22
St. Olave's-bridge to Beccles		8
Lynn-Regis to Gayton	-	7
Ditto to Cattle-Rising	-	5
And to Hillington	- -	4
And to Grimston	- -	3
Ditto to Methwold	- -	19
And to Little Ouse Bridge		14
Ditto to Wisbech	- -	17
Fincham to near Wisbech		17
Norwich to Scole Inn	-	20
And to New Buckenham		12
Ditto to Watton	- -	21

Total 239 miles.

Besides the turnpike-roads, there are some great leading roads, which have mile-stones, and in other respects not less commodious for travelling. But this, we must observe, is only where the area is thirty or forty feet, the road properly drained, and not shaddowed by close hedges or high trees.

The principal country, or cross-roads, or, as they are called, highways, are kept in repair by statute work, and Surveyors are appointed in each parish to see the labor performed; but inattention and want of skill may be traced on many of the public lanes; and being for the most part narrow, and deprived of the benefit of air and drainage, the labor is often lost. Add to this, the multiplicity of roads among which the labor must be distributed, and the heavy carriages made use of in Norfolk. However, we find, that the roads made or repaired by private gentlemen, are equal to any to be met with in other counties.

Rivers, Broads, &c.

The principal rivers in the county are, the Wensom, Yare, Bure, Ant, Thurne, Waveney, Great Ouse, Nene, Little Ouse (or Brandon) Thet, Stoke (or Wisley) Nar, Wisbech, Thur (or Stiffkey) Creak, Cley, Mundesley, Gresham, Tais, Loddon, Broome, Gressenhall, Eyne, Tud, besides several nameless rivulets. The river WENSOM, Wentfar, or Bariden, hath its source near Whiffonset, in Launditch hundred; bending round by Rainham, receives a branch from Rudham, and another from Sculthorpe; and passing by Fakenham and Elmham, is joined at Worthing by an united stream,—the one from Bittering and Beetley, the other from Wendling and Gressenhall: Above this, a small brook runs into the Wensom from Foulsham. Below Lenwade-Bridge it receives the Eyne from Heydon and Reepham, and opposite to Hellesdon, the Tud from Mattishall and Cosley. Running through the city of Norwich, it is joined by the Yare and Tais at Trowse. The YARE rises in Hingham, and running

ning by Kimberley, Marlingford*, Bawburgh, and Eaton, meets the *Talis* at Lakenham. The *Talis* hath three branches; one comes from New Buckenham, a second from Pulham, and the third from Hemphall, all of which unite at Tasburgh, to which a smaller brook is added from Tacolnestone, and another from Wrenningham. These come down by Shottisham, and meet the *Yare* at Lakenham, below which (at Trowse) they form a junction with the *Wensum*, and then take the name of *YARE*.

The *YARE*†, which is navigable from Norwich, hath its course by Postwick, Surlingham, Bockenham, and Reedham, where it receives a stream from Mundham and Loddon. From thence it meanders through the marshes to Brayden‡, at the upper end of which it meets with the Waveney, and both being joined by the Bure, or North River, at Yarmouth, influx with the British ocean, two miles south of the town. The corporation of Norwich conserve the river down to Hardley-Croft, from whence to its mouth the corporation of Great Yarmouth have the jurisdiction; also up the Bure and Waveney to the bridges at Acle and St. Olave's.

The river *BURE* arises near Hindolveston, and running by Saxthorpe and Blickling, becomes navigable at Aylsham; from whence it proceeds to Oxnead and Lammas, where it is joined by a considerable branch from Roughton, Suffield, &c. The *Bure* then goes by Coltishall, and receives a rivulet from Horsford above Wroxham, passes through
Wroxham-

* A branch from Wymondham joins at Kimberley, and one from Garveston at Barford.---This last is properly the *YARE*.

† *Gariensis*, *Guerne*, *Gerne*, or *Jere*.

‡ *Braidon*, or *Brayden*, called in a record, Henry VI. 6, *AQUA DE BRETHING*, and anciently *BARADAN*. It is marked *FL. BRAYDING* in a map on vellum, supposed to be drawn in the reign of Edward III.

Wroxham-Bridge to St. Bennet's Abbey, where the *Ant* (which springs from Antingham and Thorpe-Market, and bending round North Walsham, to Honing, Wayford-Bridge, and Ludham) meets it. From St. Bennet's the *Bure* glides on to Thurne, where it is joined by a river called the *THURNE*, having its source in Happisburgh, and channel by Hickling-Priory, and Heigham-Potter Bridge, above which a navigable stream from Hickling-Broad, and one from Winterton, unite: Thus, the *Ant* and *Thurne* being consolidated with the *Bure*, they pass through Acle-bridge, and receiving some water from Hemelby and Filby, worm through the marshes, and meet the *YARE* at Yarmouth.

The *WAVENEY* filters from a piece of meadow-ground at Lopham, (out of which also the *Lesser Ouse* takes its course westward) and passing through the bridge at Scole, runs by Billingford and Harleston, below which it is aided by a brook from Pulham. It makes a bend round Bungay in form of a horse-shoe, and at Ellingham receives a stream from Hedenham and Broome; then washing the north side of Beccles, it communicates, opposite Burgh St. Peter, with the ebb of Mutford-broad, and continuing its navigable course through the marshes by St. Olave's, is joined, opposite Burgh-Castle, by the *Yare*, both of which, with the *Bure*, empty their contents into the sea at Yarmouth haven. The Waveney is navigable from Bungay-bridge, through the bridges at Beccles, and St. Olave's, to Yarmouth.

The *Ouse Parva*, or *BRANDON* river, hath its rise from the same meadow at Lopham, that the *Waveney* proceeds a contrary way; and running by Gashorpe and Rushford, meets a river from Ixworth, in Suffolk. Above Thetford it receives the *THET*, one branch of which rises at Old Buckenham,

Buckenham, and being joined at Snetterton by a rill from Breckles and Larlingford, meets another branch from Quidenham-meer at East Harling; and thus the THE being formed, passes between Brettenham and Shadwell-Lodge to Thetford, where the OUSE hath a bridge, and becomes navigable. From thence it meanders through the “fandy deserts” to Brandon-bridge, and stealing on “in solemn tragic pace” through the level of fens, is “wedded” to the GREATER OUSE at Priest-bridge, four miles below Littleport, in Cambridgeshire.

From Priest-bridge the OUSE hath its course by Southery-ferry to Hilgay-creek, where the WISSEY, or STOKE river, meets in contact. The WISSEY rises from Bradenham, and from Hingham, the latter branch running by Watton, meets the former at Cressingham, whence leading past Langford by a sweep to Oxburgh, is there joined by a stream from Beecham-well. From thence the WISSEY is navigable through Stoke and Hilgay bridges to the OUSE at Hilgay-creek. About one mile and a half below, the OUSE passes through Denver-fluice, where it is immediately joined by the *Bedford* rivers from Erith, and the *Nene* from Upwell and Outwell.

Here, indeed, the OUSE becomes formidable, by receiving the waters and produce of several counties; for, the GREATER OUSE (formerly called *Ufa*, or *Isa*) springs from Brackley, in Northamptonshire, and passing through Buckingham, Bedford, Huntingdon, and Cambridge-shire, admits the *Grant*, or *Cambridge*, and *Mildenhall* rivers, at Ely. The NENE rises in Northamptonshire, dividing that county from Huntingdon, and running through a part of Cambridge-shire and Norfolk, influxes with the OUSE as above. The tide formerly flowed a considerable way up

these rivers, but is now checked by sluices at Denver, below which the Ouse passes through Downham, Stow, Magdalen, and German bridges, and being joined by the *Nar*, and a multitude of cuts, drains, dikes, lodes, &c. in its way hither, empties its vast contents into the bay, called by Ptolemy *METARIS ÆSTUARIUM*, or the *WASH**, two miles below the port of Lynn-Regis. The Ouse, according to Badelade, runs a course of 160 miles †.

The *NAR* hath its source in Mileham, and passing by Litcham and Castle Acre, becomes navigable at Westacre, from whence it takes its course by Pentney and Setchy-bridge to Lynn-Regis, where it is swallowed up by the *Ouse*.

The *WISBECH* river is a cut from the *Nene*, at Peterborough, and running through Morton's-lead and Wisbech-bridge, empties itself into the Cross-keys wash, and bay of *Metaris Æstuarium*. Till the thirteenth century the *Greater Ouse* and *Cam* had their out-fall by Littleport, Welney, Well, and Wisbech; but it was then judged right to divert its natural course into the Lynn channel. [*For the particulars of this revolution, and its consequences, we refer the reader to the history of the BEDFORD LEVEL, given in Freebridge-Lynn and Marshland, vol. 5, page 17.*]

Of

* Called by Ptolemy *Æstuarium Metaris*, possibly instead of *MAL-TRAITH*, a name by which the Britons called *Æstuaries* in other places, and which imports no more than "an uncertain æstuary," as this is.

† The Ouse, or Isis, as Sir Henry Spelman says is its proper name, "is remarkable for its extraordinary over-flowings at the two Equinoxes, and especially at the full moon of the autumnal one, when a vast heap of waters from the sea comes in upon it with such fury, that the inhabitants call it *EAGER*; for it over-whelms every thing in its way, and the very water-fowls shun it."

Of the other rivers of any note that have their origin in this county, one rises above Ashwicken, and runs into the *Ouse* at Lynn:—Another proceeds from Congham, by Castle-Rising, into Lynn channel, at Wolferton:—A third springs from Bircham, and by Fring, goes into the same channel, at Heacham. The next rises above South Creak, and forms a good haven below Burnham. The *THUR*, or *STIFKEY* river, comes out of Thursford, and running by Saoring, Barham, Walsingham, and Warham, influxes with the sea below Stifkey. The *CLEY* river rises at Beckham, having its course by Baconsthorpe, thro' a deep vale by Holt and Cley, into the sea at Blakeney, where it forms what is called *Cley harbour*. A small rivulet springs from South-Repps, passing by Gimmingham to the ocean at Mundesley. It is rather remarkable, that from Mundesley to Yare-mouth, a distance of twenty-six miles along the coast, not the smallest rill finds its way into the ocean.

Besides the rivers we have described, there are some smaller tributary streams which deserve not particular mention.

The principal lakes (called *BROADS*, or *MERES*,) in this county, are,—The *Brayden*, or Broad-end, above Yarmouth, through which the navigable rivers Yare and Waveney, have their channel: it is three miles in length, and in most parts half a mile wide. *Hickling-broad* is a beautiful sheet of water, about one mile over; near to it are several smaller lakes of irregular form; and about two miles East is *Horsey-mere*, or broad, covering forty acres. Near to *Stalham* is a broad one mile long, but scarcely a furlong wide; and below it is *Barton-broad*, of the same length, though much wider towards the middle. *Filby-*

broad extends a mile and a half, but is so shallow, narrow, and ill-shapen, that nothing more need be said of it. By the river Bure are several broads, as *Wroxham, Horweton, Wood-bastwick, Ranworth, and South Walsham*, all of which are said to cover 500 acres. *Quidenham, Dists, and Hingham*, have each a mere, but they are small with respect to those above mentioned.

It was some years ago proposed to render the river Wensom navigable from Norwich up to Fakenham, but the difficulty and expence of the work it was found would far exceed the partial benefit to the country. A navigable cut from Norwich, by Hingham and Watton, to Oxburgh, was also proposed, which would have opened a communication with the Ouse, &c. but this, like the other, appeared but in *embryo*; and in the present state of public affairs, it is not probable that any improvement of this kind will be put in execution.

*Fairs in the County of Norfolk, specifying
the Days on which they are held, 1781.*

Aldeburgh, June 21
 Attleburgh, April 11, May 24, August 15
 Aylsham, March 23, September 25
 Banham, January 22
 Bromhall, May 28, November 30
 Broomhill, July 7
 Burnham, March 15, August 1
 Castle Acre, April 18, July 25
 Cawston, January 10, April 14, August 28
 Cley, July 13
 Coltishall, June 4

Cressingham *Magna*, August 12
 Cromer, June 4
 Dereham, East, February 3, September 28
 Difs, October 23
 Downham, April 27, November 2
 Elmham, April 5
 Harling, East, May 4, October 24
 St. Faith's, the week after Old Mich. Oct. 17
 Feltwell, November 20
 Fincham, March 3
 Forncet, September 11
 Foulsham, May 1
 Frettenham, April 13
 Fring, May 10, November 30
 Gaywood, June 11, October 6
 Giffing, July 25
 Gressenhall, December 6
 Harleston, July 5, September 9
 Harpley, July 24
 Heacham, August 3
 Hempnall, June 4, November 22
 Hempton, June 5, November 22
 Hingham, March 6, May 26, October 2
 Hockham, April 5
 Hockwold, July 25
 Ho't, April 25, November 25
 Horning, August 6
 Ingham, July 11
 Kenninghall, July 7
 Kip-Ash, August 24
 Loddon, April 16, November 27
 Litcham, November 1
 Lynn-Regis, February 2
 Magdalen, near Norwich, August 2

Maffingham,

Maffingham, April 10, November 8
 Mattishall, June 6
 Methwold, April 25
 New Buckenham, May 29, October 22
 Northwalsingham, May 24
 Northwold, November 30
 Norwich, April 12, June 2 and 9
 Oxburgh, March 25
 Pulham St. Mary Magdalen, May 21
 Reepham, June 29
 Rudham, May 17, October 2
 Scole, April 17
 Scottow, April 17
 Shouldham, September 19, October 10
 South-Repps, July 25
 Sprowston, August 2
 Stoke-Ferry, December 6
 Stow-bridge, May 29
 Swaffham, May 12, July 21, November 3
 Thetford, May 14, August 2, September 25
 Wallingham, June 4
 Watton, June 18, September 29, October 28
 Weasenham, January 25
 Worsted, May 3
 Wymondham, February 2, May 6, September 7
 Yarmouth, April 19, 20.

Origin and Use of Seals.

The Saxons used no seals, only signed the mark of a cross to their instruments, to which the scribe affixed their names, by which they had a double meaning; first, to denote their being Christians, and then as such to confirm

it by the symbol of their faith: The first sealed charter we meet with, is that of Edward the Confessor, to Westminster-Abbey, which use he brought with him from Normandy, where he was brought up, and for that reason it was approved of by the Norman Conqueror, though sealing grew into common use by degrees, the King at first only using it, then some of the Nobility, after that the Nobles in general, who engraved on their seals their own effigies, covered with their coat armour; after this the Gentlemen followed, and used the arms of their family for difference sake; but about the time of Edward III. seals became of general use, and they that had no coat armour, sealed with their own device, as flowers, birds, beasts, or whatever they chiefly delighted in, as a dog, a hare, &c. and nothing was more common than an invention, or *rebus*, for their names, as a swan and a tun, for Swanton, a hare, for Hare, &c. and because very few of the commonalty could write, (all learning at that time being among the religious only) the person's name was usually circumscribed on his seal, so that at once they set both their name and seal, which was so sacred a thing in those days, that one man never used another's seal, without its being particularly taken notice of in the instrument sealed, and for this reason, every one carried their seal about them, either on their rings, or on a roundell, fastened sometimes to their purse, sometimes to their girdle; nay, oftentimes where a man's seal was not much known, he procured some one in public office to affix theirs, for the greater confirmation. Thus Hugh de Schalers, or Scales, a younger son of Lord Scales's family, parson of Harlton, in Cambridgeshire, upon his agreeing to pay the prior of Bernewell 30s. for the two-third parts of the tythe corn, due to the said prior, out of several lands in his parish, because his seal was known to few, he procured the Archdeacon's official, to
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put his seal of office, for more ample confirmation ; and when this was not done, nothing was more common than for a Public-notary to affix his mark, which being registered, at their admission into their office, was of as public a nature as any seal could be, and of as great sanction to any instrument, those officers being always sworn to the true execution of their office, and to affix no other mark than that they had registered, to any instrument, so their testimony could be as well known by their mark, as by their name ; for which reason they were called Public-notaries, *nota*, in Latin, signifying a mark, and *public*, because their mark was publicly registered, and their office was to be public to all that had any occasion for them to strengthen their evidence ; there are few of these officers among us now, and such as we have, have so far varied from the original of their name, that they use no mark at all, only add N. P. for Notary-public at the end of their names*. Thus also the use of seals is now laid aside, we mean the *true use* of them, as the distinguishing mark of one family from another, and likewise of one branch from another ; and was it enjoined by public *authority*, that every one in office should, upon his admission, choose, and appropriate to himself a particular seal, and register a copy of it publicly, and should never use any other but that alone, under a severe penalty, in a short time we should see the
good

* The use of these marks were found so beneficial, that at that time all merchants of any note had their peculiar marks, with which they marked all their ware, and bare in shields impaled with, or instead of arms, witness the abundance of merchant marks to be found on the houses, windows, and grave-stones, in all cities and great towns, as Norwich, Lynn, &c. by which the memory of their owners is still preserved, it being very obvious to all that search into the records of those places, to find who used such a mark, and then, if we see it on a house, we may conclude it to have been that man's dwelling ; if on a disrobed grave-stone, that it was his grave ; if on a church window, or any other public building, that he was a benefactor thereto, and nothing is of greater use than ancient deeds to make out their marks by, for they always sealed with them.

good effects of it ; for a great number of those vagabonds that infest our country, under pretence of certificates, signed by proper Magistrates, (whose hands are oftener counterfeit than real) would be detected ; for though it is easy for an ill-designing person to forge a hand writing, 'tis directly the contrary as to a seal ; and though it is in the power of all to know magistrates names, 'tis but very few of such sort of people that could know their seals ; so that it would in a great measure (if not altogether) put a stop to that vile practice, and it would be easy for every Magistrate to know the seals of all others, if they were entered properly, engraved, and published ; and it might be of service if all the office seals in England (or in those foreign parts that any way concern the Realm) were engraved and published, for then it would be in every one's power to know whether the seals of office affixed to all passes, &c. were genuine, or not ; for it is well known that numbers travel this nation under pretence of passes from our Consuls and agents abroad, and sometimes even deceive careful Magistrates with the pretended hands and seals of such, it being sometimes impossible for them to know the truth, which by this means would evidently appear. And thus much, and a great deal more, may be said to encourage the true and original use of that wise Conqueror's practice, who can scarce be said to have put any thing into use, but what he found was of advantage to his Government.—*Blomefield.*

The great seal of England was first used in 1050, and Lambard, in his perambulation of Kent, justly observes, that seals were not in common use *anno Dni.* 1294, and therefore, to make a conveyance in the most solemn and public manner that could be, the deed was read to the parish after service, in the church-yard, that all might

know it, and be witnesses, if occasion required. We have seen the copy of a grant made by Malcolm III. King of Scotland, about the year 1030, wherein he says, “ *and for the mair suith, I byt the white Wax with my Teeth, before thir witnesses three;*” &c.

Of Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Danish Antiquities.

In Norfolk, the remains are so fully described in the topography of the hundred they respectively belong to, that little more need be said here than just to mention names.

Thetford was the *Sitomagus* of the Romans,—Yarmouth, *Garianonum*,—Castor, *Venta-Icenorum*,—Tasburgh, *Ad Taum*,—Brancafter, *Brannodunum*,—and Ickborough, *Iciani*.

At Brampton, and many other places in the county, Roman coins have been discovered. The Roman camps at Castor, Tasburgh, and Brancafter, are easily traced, but the station at Burgh, near the Brayden, is the most entire of any in *Iceni*. The North of England and South of Scotland abounds in those ocular evidences of antiquity which carry with them conviction: Roman stations, roads, and exploratory camps are frequent; and vestiges of circumvallations raised by the Scots and Picts, Danes and Britons, are every way to be met with. Indeed, many of the latter are credulously believed *Roman* by Gordon, Horsley, and other itinerant delineants, “ whose imagination (says an author) heated by a superior warmth of erudition, fondly fostered every appearance that bore a *resemblance to antiquity*, and claimed an indisputable credit from their *learned disquisitions*.” That all Roman fortifications

ations were quadrilateral is beyond dispute: It is equally ascertained that those of the Anglo-Saxons, Danes, and British, were circular;—then, how the latter could be mistaken for *Roman* is to us more than wonderful!

Thetford, Yarmouth, Elmham, Norwich, and Deopham, were towns well known to the Saxons. At a place, called *Blood-gate*, in South Creak, are vestiges of a Saxon fortification, where a severe battle was fought between the Anglo-Saxons and Danes. A small circular fort is yet visible at *Narburgh*; thrown up, most likely, when the Danes landed on the coast of Norfolk, *anno Dni.* 1003. At *Burnham-Depdale* are several Saxon funeral monuments; and near *Weeting* is a bank and ditch, called the *Foss*;—near it is *Grime's Graves*; and not far from thence the *Walsingham Way* is pretty perfect.

The principal military ways of the Romans in this island are those now called Watling-street, Ickenield-street, Stone-street, and the Fosse-way, which are visible in many parts of South Britain, on which most of the Roman cities and stations stood, and consequently most of the remains of Roman antiquity found in Britain have been discovered. These four principal ways crossed each other at Tilbury-fort, and there passing the river Thames, extended in their several directions to the extremities of the Roman possessions in England and Wales. Besides the principal ways, there are many remains of vicinal ways, or such as were called by the Romans, *Chemini minares*: Some of these are said to pass into Norfolk, but of this we are doubtful; notwithstanding it is generally allowed that the Romans made roads of communication to all their stations*. The

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road,

* Military ways, *VIE MILITARES*, are the large Roman roads for the more convenient marching of troops and conveyance of carriages.

road, called the *Peddar's-way*, running from Thetford, by Ickborough, Swaffham, Castle Acre, Harpley-dam, Fring, and Ringstead, to the sea at Holme, has most the appearance of ROMAN of any we have met with in the county; for, what is called Walsingham, or the Milky-way, is only a road of pilgrimage to our Lady of Walsingham. The road leading by Long Stratton to Tasburgh might possibly be *Roman*, but we see nothing like *Roman* roads to Castor, Elmham, nor Brancafter;—the *Venta-Icenorum*, and *Brannedunum* of the Romans.

In this, as in other counties, are to be met with in many parts, artificial heaps of earth and stone, commonly called *barrows*, from the Saxon word *byrigh*, and from which the English word *bury* is also derived. These were called by the Romans *tumulus*: in Scotland they are called *cairns*, and in Ireland *curroughs*; in Wales they are termed *tommens*, or *hillocks*. Barrows are found in most countries; but in the British dominions they are very numerous, occasioned by the practice of the Druids, who burned and then buried their dead; though afterwards barrows were made use of for other purposes than protecting the remains of the dead:—Sometimes as places of worship, for holding judicial courts, festival solemnities, and election of inferior magistrates. Dr. Stukely is clearly of the same opinion with us, “that the ancient Britons had the custom of burning the bodies of their dead, before they had ever heard of the name of Rome.”

In these barrows, or burial-places, are found human bones intermixed with wood-ashes, and enclosed by a parcel of stones set in some order; or, by urns of brick-clay.

Along

Agrippa procured these roads to be made through the empire in the time of Augustus.

Along with these are frequently found instruments of war, pledge, or sacrifice. When these barrows were not very large, and the burying places of private persons only, they were situated near public roads, to put travellers in mind of the common destiny ! If they were the sepulchres of common soldiers, they were thrown up generally on the field of battle where the soldiers fell, and are found in straight lines, stretching along the plains, which have been the scenes of great actions, as regularly as the front of an army. The size of these sepulchral monuments is various, but generally large, in proportion to the quality of the deceased, or the vanity, affection, and power of the survivors !

In this manner do we find a great many *barrows* in Norfolk, near Anmer, Sedgford, Rudham, Stifkey, Creak, Long Stratton, Wretham, Weeting, &c. some of which have been opened, and discovered relics, which the reader will find topographically described in the said parts of this history.

Bishop Gibson, amongst his additions to Camden's Norfolk, says, " Towards the sea-side are cast up all along little hills, which are doubtless the burying places of the Danes and Saxons, upon their engagements in those parts. *Sepulchrum*, says Tacitus, concerning the Germans, *cespes erigit*. Those two used to bury the whole body, and afterwards raise a hill upon it ; The Romans, as appears in Virgil by the burial of Mezentius, made their heap of turf, but only buried the ashes ; so that whether they also might not have some share here (especially *Brannodunum*, being so near) cannot be discovered but by digging. However, our learned Knight* from those circumstances has raised

* Sir Henry Spelman.

raised these three observations: first, that the persons buried hereabouts must have been Heathens, because the Christians followed the Jewish way of burying in low places*; for though our word *bury* (comes from the Saxon *byrgan*, and that from *beorg*, a *hill*) denotes a rising ground, as well as the Latin *tumulare*, yet this is to be reckoned amongst those many words which Christians have borrowed from the Heathens, and applied to their own rites and constitutions. Secondly, it is remarkable, that those parts which are now very fruitful in corn, were then uncultivated†, because the superstition of the Heathens would not allow them to bury in fields. Thirdly, that this must have been a scene of war between the Danes and Saxons; for in the fields near Creak there is a large Saxon fortification, and the way that goes from it is to this day called *Blood-gate*, as a mark of the slaughter.”

The Monasteries and Religious Houses in Norwich, and the County of Norfolk, at the Time of the general Dissolution by Henry VIII. anno Dni. 1535, are as follow:

Norwich Convent, or Cathedral	Aldby Priory
St. Mary in Norwich	Attleburgh Chantry
St. Francis, ditto	Beefton Priory
St. Dominic, ditto	Baſton
St. Augustine, ditto	Binham
St. Giles, ditto	Blackborough in Middleton
St. Paul, ditto	Blakeney, or Snitterley
	Buckenham
	Broomhill

Broomhill near Brandon	Pentney
Broomholme in Baſton	Peterſtone near Hoikham
Burnham-Weſtgate	De Prato, or North Creak
Bedlam Black Canons	Abbey
Carew, Carrowe, or Carhow	Raveningham
Carbrooke	Ruſhworth
Caſtle Acre	Shouldham
Caſtor College	Thetford Houſe of Friars
Coxford in Rudham	Monaſtery of Auguſtine
Crabe-houſe in Wiggenhall	Friars in ditto
Dereham, Eaſt	St. Sepulchre, ditto
Dereham, Weſt	Priory of St. Mary and St.
Fliſham	John, ditto
Heveringland Mount-Joy	St. Gregory, ditto
Hempton near Fakenham	St. Andrew, ditto
Herringby	St. Mary, ditto
Hilderlands	St. Mary Magdalen, ditto
Hickling	Toftrees
Horſham St. Faith's	Thomſon
Holme St. Benediſt	Waborne
Ingham	Walſingham
Langley	Wells
St. Mary near Norwich	Wendling
Marmound	Weſt-Acre
Marham, or Markham	Wymondham
Lynn-Regis	Witham, or Winwald
Carmelite Friars in Lynn	Weybridge in Acle
Black Friars, ditto	Wormegay
Grey Friars, ditto	Yarmouth, a Cell to Nor-
Cell to Norwich, ditto	wich
Hoſpital, ditto	St. Mary, in Yarmouth
Maſſingham	St. Dominic, ditto
Mendham	St. Francis, ditto

By the above list we find, that the *Defender of the Faith* dissolved no less than seventy-seven religious and charitable houses in this county. Henry VIII. being excommunicated by the Pope for denying his supremacy, and for other offences, he suppressed 1148 monasteries, &c. in England, whose revenues amounted to 133,707*l.* per annum. Lord Cromwell was made Vicar-general, and visited the religious foundations *with plague, pestilence, and famine*, and the lands were sold at easy rates. In 1539 a statute passed for confirming the surrender of 645 abbeys, 152 colleges, and 129 hospitals. The order of the Knights Templars of St. John of Jerusalem were also suppressed, in the year following.

Besides these religious houses, Norfolk contained several alien priories and decayed hospitals, which were dissolved before the reign of Henry VIII. of ecclesiastic memory, as at Chosely, Downham, Hilgay, Hobbies, Horstead, Lessingham, Lynn, Newbridge in Ickborough, Narford, Norwich, Sherringham, Slevesholm in Methwold, Setchye, Sporle, Thetford, Thorpe-wood, Toft-monks, Walsingham, Wereham, &c. We also read of pilgrimages to our Lady at Reepham, —to St. Spyrit,—St. Parnel at Stratton,—St. Leonard without Norwich,—St. Wandred of Bixley,—St. Margaret of Horstead,—to our Lady of Pity at Horstead,—St. John's Head of Trimningham,—and to the Holy Rode of Croftwick: And several manors, lands, &c. in Norfolk, belonged to, or were held of religious houses not in the county.

The first monastery in the world was founded in 270, where the sister of St. Anthony retired. The distinction of abbey, priory, convent, free-chapel, chantry, friary, college, collegiate-church, hospital, preceptory, cell, dormitory, hermitage, guild, houses of alms, and for lepers, were

were afterwards given to ecclesiastic or charitable institutions, whether independent or subordinate. Hospitals or preceptories for the Knights Templars of St. John of Jerusalem were peculiar. Cells were houses that belonged to great abbots, or monasteries. Into these cells the Monks of the abbots sent colonies when they were too much crowded, or afraid of an infectious disease at home. The Monks were originally confined to drink *milk and water*, but they soon gave up that diet for *wine and ale*. Some of these were richly endowed, and luxury kept pace with their increasing wealth. In length of time they became possessed of a third part of all the lands in England, when pride, magnificence, and licentiousness, with all their train, entered their sacred walls, and hastened their dissolution.

Erasmus tells us many stories of the deceptions and enormities practised by the canonical gentry of his day, and Spelman denounced hereditary imbecility on the purchasers of abbey-lands.—*De non temerandis Ecclesiis*.—But both these writers, whatever the authority of their names may be, are fond of the *marvellous*; and Cambden, the best chorographer of the last century, admits many of these miracles.

Walsingham, in this county, was famous throughout England for pilgrimages to the Virgin Mary; for, whoever had not made a visit and present to the Blessed Lady of this place, was looked upon as impious and irreligious; and here the Priests carried on as lucrative a *trade*, by deceiving the ignorant multitude, as the monks of Canterbury, who were in possession of the shrine of Becket. Indeed it was the practice in England, as it is still in Italy and other popish countries, for thousands of people to go there annually to visit *the shrine of our Lady*, as it was called; and they had indulgences granted them in *propor-*

tion to the sums given to the priests ; for the reader must not suppose that it was from motives of *pity* that they went thither. “ On the contrary, says the English Traveller, we have seen processions of those pilgrims in different parts of Europe, and, without the least exaggeration, they may be reduced to the following classes: Supposing the whole body to consist of fifty of each sex, twenty couple are generally on *love intrigues*,—the second twenty are idle lazy *vagabonds and whores*, whilst the last ten couple may be partly *d devotees*, and partly *philosophers*, who go to laugh at the depravity of human nature, and the bare-faced wickedness of the Priests.”

This college of Walsingham had scarce any revenues besides the presents made to the Blessed Virgin : The most valuable gifts only were preserved ; the smaller being appropriated to the maintenance of the prior and convent. In the church was a little narrow chapel of wood, into which the pilgrims were admitted on each side by a small door. There was no light but that of the wax tapers, which had a grateful smell : “ But, says Erasmus, if you look in, you'll say *'tis the seat of the Gods*, so bright and shining is it all over with jewels, gold, and silver.”—Yet, woe to tell ! that very Prince who walked one mile and a half bare-foot to present a rich necklace to the Lady of Walsingham, soon after reduced her Ladyship and her valuable train to their original value—in bullion ! The road of pilgrimage through this county is still visible in many parts, and is called Walsingham Way, or the Milky Way.

There were formerly several convents and hospitals for leprous persons. The people of England in those times must have been sorely afflicted by that loathsome disease in consequence of their not wearing linen, but flannel, and
other

other woollen cloth, next their skin, which must naturally have produced vermin, and at last turned into what was then called the leprosy, and thought incurable, although nothing is more easily performed in this age. Indeed we are scarce able, in this enlightened age, to form any notion of the manner in which our ancestors lived about five centuries ago; for, in the reign of Henry III. we find “straw first used for the King’s bed, *anno Dni. 1242:*” And at that time the Court of Henry III. was considered as the standard of politeness for all the other nations in Europe. How different the present times!

Eminent Men.

We have already observed, that “Norfolk hath produced as many great and eminent persons in war, law, learning, and politics, as most counties,” among which we shall make biographical mention of the following:

Sir John Fastolff was born at Yarmouth* 1377, and married the Lady Castlecomb in Ireland, with whom he received a great fortune. In 1415 he accompanied Henry V. in his expedition to France, and was appointed Governor of Harfleur, in Normandy. At the famous battle of Agincourt, he behaved with the greatest bravery, and assisted in taking the Duke of Alencon prisoner. As a reward for his bravery the King granted him some lands in Normandy, and conferred upon him the honor of Knighthood.

When Henry V. died, he accompanied John Duke of Bedford, regent of the kingdom, to France, and was present at most of the engagements in which that hero was

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concerned

concerned, upon which he was made a Baron and Knight of the Garter.

When the English besieged Orleans in 1428, he conducted a convey of provisions thither, which was of great service to the army, and in 1430, he was appointed Governor of Caen, in Normandy, a place of great importance at that time. About two years afterwards he was sent in conjunction with the Lord Willoughby against the French, under the command of the Duke of Alençon, and obtained several considerable victories.

In 1440 he returned to his native country, where he became as illustrious for his private virtues, as he had been formerly for his patriotism and valor; for Peace presents an opportunity for greatness to display itself equally, if not more than the field. He continued in the exercises of generosity and benevolence to the last, and having lingered some time with an asthma, he paid his last debt to nature 1459, aged 82.

Many have thought that Shakespeare had this hero in view when he wrote his character of Falstaff, but nothing is more improbable, as the one is represented as a base poltroon, whilst the other was adorned with every virtue.

Richard Taverner, Esq. was born in Norfolk 1505, and instructed in grammar learning at the free-school of Norwich, after which he was entered in Bennet's College, Cambridge, but removed from thence to Cardinal Wolsey's New College at Oxford, since called Christ's Church, where he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and afterwards settled in the Inner Temple to study the municipal law of England. A late author tells us, that while he remained in the Temple, he used to cite passages from such
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of the law books as are in Greek, but it is well known that there never was a treatise on the laws of England in that language, and therefore it must be meant of the Justinian institutions.

It does not appear that he ever was called up to the Bar, for in 1534 he went into the service of Lord Cromwell, who procured him the place of Clerk to the Signet, when he published a new edition of the Bible, corrected from the best manuscripts. When Cromwell was beheaded, Taverner was brought into trouble, and committed to the Tower, but soon after released and restored to the King's favor, which he enjoyed during the remainder of Henry's reign.

Edward VI. granted him a licence, although a Layman, to preach in any church in England, which was then necessary, as few Protestant Ministers could be had. During the reign of Queen Mary he concealed himself to avoid persecution, but on the accession of Queen Elizabeth, he was taken into favor, appointed High-Sheriff and a Justice of the Peace for the county of Oxford.

Whilst he enjoyed these offices, he continued to preach against the idolatry of the Papists, and one time being in the pulpit of St. Mary's, he began his sermon with the following words: " Arriving at the Mount of St. Mary's, " in the stony stage, where I now stand," (St. Mary's pulpit was then built of stone) " I have brought you some " biscuits, baked in the oven of charity, carefully con- " served for the chickens of the church, the sparrows of " the spirit, and the sweet swallows of salvation."

Such

Such was the vicious taste of those times, when pedantry passed for learning, and affectation for genuine simplicity. He was a very zealous encourager of the Reformation, and not only preached, but wrote and translated several books, in order to promote it. He died at Wood-Eaton, in Oxfordshire, 1575, aged 70.

John Baconthorpe, commonly called the *Subtil Doctor*, was born at Baconthorpe, and educated in a monastery of Carmelites at Blakeney, after which he went to Oxford, and from thence to Paris, where he distinguished himself for his knowledge in metaphysics, at that time the common jargon of the schools.

Upon his return to England he was appointed principal of his order, and sent to Rome to deliver his opinion concerning some points then in dispute, concerning marriage, when he declared “ that the Pope had an inherent right to dispense with the laws of God ;” for which he was severely censured by his brethren, and obliged to sign a formal recantation. He was a strong-stickler for the philosophy of Averroes, and wrote many books, which are now little regarded by the learned.

He was a person of so universal and profound thought and knowledge, that he was highly admired by the Italians, among whom he commonly went by the name of *The Resolute Doctor*, which induced Paulus Ponsa to write after this manner of him : “ If your inclinations lead you to search into the nature of Almighty God, no one hath writ more accurately upon his essence : If one has a mind to search into the causes of things, the effects of nature, and the various motions of the Heavens, and the contrary qualities of the elements, his books present us with a magazine.

This

This one *Resolute Doctor* has furnished the Christian religion with armour against the Jews, stronger than any Vulcan's," &c. He died in the year 1346.

William Bateman was born at Norwich, some time in the reign of Edward I. and studied the civil and canon law at Cambridge, where he took his Doctor's degree before he was 30 years of age, a thing very uncommon in those times. In 1328 he was appointed Archdeacon of Norwich, and some years after advanced to the Deanry of Lincoln. In 1343 the Pope, by virtue of his usurped right, consecrated him Bishop of Norwich, in which office he was confirmed the next year by order of Edward III. He was a very hospitable prelate, and founded Trinity-hall, in Cambridge, for the study of the civil and canon laws.

In 1354 he was sent to Rome, in order to treat of a peace in the presence of the Pope, between England and France; but that journey proved fatal to him; for he died at Avignon, and was buried with great solemnity in the cathedral church of that city. Our historians have related a story concerning this prelate, which will give the reader some notion of the power of Clergy in the dark ages of Popery. Lord Morley having killed some of the Bishop's deer, and abused his Park-keeper, that Nobleman was obliged to do penance, by walking barefooted through the city of Norwich with a wax candle of six pounds weight in his hand, and kneel down before the Bishop in the cathedral to ask his pardon. All this he was obliged to comply with, although the King had sent an express order to the contrary.

He was a great lover of learning, and promoter of the study of it, as appears from hence: 1. That in his travels
beyond

beyond sea he perceiving that our common law was there in no request, and thinking it necessary that the English should have skill in the canon and civil laws, (for the managing of foreign negotiations at least) erected a College in Cambridge, called Trinity-hall, for the study of it. 2. He also was the person who induced Dr. Gonville, then Professor of Divinity in the same University, to build another college, which from him was called Gonville-hall, which Dr. Caius afterwards changed into a college.

Matthew Parker, D. D. was the son of a tradesman in Norwich: when he was about twelve years of age his father died, but his mother took particular care of his education, and in 1520 he was admitted a Student in Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, of which society he was elected a Fellow, and became Chaplain to Anne Boleyn, whom he attended to the scaffold, and received particular instructions from her "to see that her daughter Elizabeth was brought up in the fear of God." He became a zealous promoter of Reformation during the reign of Edward VI. who promoted him to the Deanry of Lincoln; but on the accession of Queen Mary he was deprived of his benefice, and obliged to conceal himself privately from the rage of the Papists, who had marked him out for destruction.

On the accession of Queen Elizabeth his circumstances were happily altered, and he was raised to the archiepiscopal see of Canterbury. The Papists invented a story, that he was consecrated by Laymen at the Nag's Head, in Cheapside; and although the records of his consecration have been published by Mason, Burnet, and Strype, yet the ignorant vulgar are still taught to believe the story. In 1727 a learned French Priest, and a staunch Roman Catholic,

Catholic, published four volumes in refutation of this slander invented by his own brethren.

Parker having been thus placed at the head of the church, and well knowing that he would have all the art of the Papists to contend with, took care to have the sees filled with the most learned men, and the universities put under such regulations, as should prevent Papists from settling there to poison the minds of the youth. He was at great expence in rebuilding his palace at Canterbury, and founded a free-school at Rochdale, in Lancashire. He was chiefly concerned in translating and publishing the English Bible, which was the first English translation done from the Hebrew and Greek, the former one having been mostly from the Latin of Erasmus.

This Bible was appointed, and continued to be read in all the churches and chapels in England, till the reign of James I. when the present translation was undertaken by order of that Prince, although the Psalms of the former Bible are still used in the public service of the church. After a life spent in many noble and pious works, he died at Lambeth 1575.

With all these qualifications as a divine and scholar, he has been justly blamed for his severity to the Puritans; but it must be considered that the people's minds in that age were narrow and contracted, they having but lately been brought over from Popish idolatry.

Parker was buried under an altar monument in Lambeth chapel, but during the civil wars one Colonel Scot having got possession of it, he pulled down the tomb, and took up the coffin, which he found to be lead, and sold it to a

plumber, after having tumbled the body into a hole near an out-house, where poultry was kept.

John Kaye, or, as he is sometimes called, Caius, was born at Norwich in 1510, and studied in Gonville-hall, Cambridge, from which he removed to visit foreign countries, and took his degree of Doctor of Physic in the university of Padua. In the reign of Edward VI. he returned to England, and was appointed principal Physician at Court, a place which he likewise enjoyed under both the Queens, Mary and Elizabeth.

The College of Physicians in London elected him one of their Fellows, and he presided at the head of that body several years. Being very rich, and desirous to promote learning as far as was in his power, he procured a charter from Queen Elizabeth, dated 1565, to turn Gonville-hall into a college, and endowed it with the greatest part of his estate. He lived as an ornament to his profession till July, 1573, when he died at Cambridge, aged 63.

He wrote an excellent book of the Antiquities of Cambridge, which when he presented to James I. as he passed through his college, the King said, " Give me rather Caius de Canibus." A work of his, as much admired, but hard to be got. He was Master of his college some time; but in his old age having resigned the Mastership to Dr. Legg, he lived a Fellow-Commoner in his college, where, having built him a seat in the chapel, he constantly attended the prayers. He lies buried in the chapel, under a plain tomb, with no other epitaph but this,—*FUI CAIUS*.—His successor in his Mastership was

Thomas

Thomas Legg, Doctor of Laws, who was also a native of Norwich. He was bred in Trinity College, where he was Fellow, as also at Jesus, till he was chosen by Dr. Kaye, then living, the nineteenth Master of Gonville-hall, but second Master of Kaye's College. He was Dean of the Arches, one of the Masters of Chancery, twice Vice-Chancellor of the university of Cambridge, and thirty-four years Master of this college. Justus Lipsius gives him a character, that he was a very excellent antiquary, and an oracle of learning, able to resolve all doubts in that kind. He was a great benefactor to this college, bequeathing 600*l.* for the building the East part thereof, besides several lesser liberalities. Thomas Bacon, the fifteenth Master of Gonville-hall, had done great wrongs to it, and left it in debt; but this Doctor, and his two successors, Doctors Brainthwaite and Gossin, going in Kaye's steps, (all natives of Norwich) repaired all losses, acting not so much like Masters as Stewards for the house. He was a serious man, and to gratify himself he wrote two tragedies, viz. *The destruction of Jerusalem*, and *The Life of King Richard III.* which last was acted before Queen Elizabeth with applause, in St. John's College-hall. This Doctor died July 12, 1607, *etat.* 72, leaving the college his heir, in which he was buried.

John Aylmer, D. D. was born at Aylmer-hall, in the parish of Tilney, 1527, and educated in the university of Cambridge, where he took his degrees, and became tutor to Lady Jane Gray, daughter of the Marquis of Dorset. His first living in the church was the Archdeaconry of Stow, and in the convocation, which met in the beginning of the reign of Queen Mary, he was one of the six divines who offered to dispute with all the Popish Clergy in defence of the Protestant religion. But he soon found that the supreme power did not intend to argue by words, but

by force. He was obliged to abscond, and having the good fortune to get beyond the seas, there he remained till the accession of Queen Elizabeth, when he returned to England, and was made Archdeacon of Lincoln. He was afterwards promoted to the Bishopric of London, 1576, which he held till his death in 1594.

There is a strange inconsistency in the characters of some men. Aylmer had a considerable share of learning, and had suffered much for his opposition to Popery; but no sooner was he raised to the episcopal office, than he persecuted the Puritans with the greatest severity; for those people, among whom were many learned men, having wrote some pamphlets against the Bishop, he took the same method in answering them as the Papists had done with himself, namely, that of calling in the assistance of the civil power, by which many of them were thrown into prison, where they suffered great hardships.

This conduct of the Bishop's was entirely opposite to the spirit of Christianity, which allows of no other force besides rational conviction.

He left a great estate to his eldest son, Samuel Aylmer, who was High-Sheriff of Suffolk in the reign of Charles I. and one of his youngest sons, Dr. Aylmer, Rector of Had-dam, in Hertfordshire, was one of the most learned and reverend divines of his time.

Sir John Gresham was born at Holt, in this county, in 1507, and brought up at the university of Cambridge, from whence he removed to London, and entered into partnership with his brother, Sir Richard Gresham, an eminent mercer and merchant. He served the honorable office of Sheriff of London during the year his brother was Lord Mayor.

Mayor, 1537, and founded a free-school at the place of his nativity, which is under the direction of the Company of Fishmongers.

Both he and his brother continued to flourish in trade, and projected the scheme of building an Exchange in London, which was afterwards compleated by Sir Thomas, son of Sir Richard. He was Lord Mayor in 1547, and died in 1556, aged only 49.

Sir Thomas Gresham, Knt. was born at Gresham, and being bred a mercer and merchant in the city of London, God so blessed his diligence and care in trading, that he became one of the wealthiest men in England, and by God's grace proved one of the richest in good works; for he founded, 1. The Royal-Exchange, a kind of college for merchants for the improvement and benefit of trade. He laid the first stone, June 7, 1566, and it was finished November, 1567. The city provided and cleared the ground for this building, and this good and wealthy man erected the whole at his own charge. It was built of brick, and covered with slate, and named by Queen Elizabeth *The Royal Exchange*, when on January 27, 1570, she entered into it, and with sound of trumpet caused an Herald so to call it, as ordering it to bear that name in all future ages. But this is not the building that is now so called, and is standing in Cornhill, London, bearing the same name now; for the great fire in 1666 consumed Sir Thomas Gresham's, with the greatest part of the city. The present edifice, or burse, was erected at the charge of the city and Mercer's Company, in 1669, who were at the equal expence, and cost about 50,000l.

2. Gresham College, which was some time his dwelling-house, which, with the profits of the cellars, shops, vaults, warehouses, offices, &c. of the Royal-Exchange, he gave to the Mayor and Commonalty of London, and the Company of Mercers, to be equally divided and enjoyed upon the following conditions, viz. “ That the Mayor and Commonalty of London do provide four qualified persons to read lectures of Geometry, Divinity, Music, and Astronomy, every day in Term-time, and allow them each 50l. per ann. as also to pay yearly to eight alms-folk in his alms-house, in the parish of St. Peter le Poor, 6l. 13s. 4d. and 10l. each to the prisoners of Ludgate, Newgate, the King’s-Bench, Marshalsea, and Woodstreet-Compter, to be distributed among the poor in those places. As also that the Company of Mercers do find three readers out of their moiety for the said college, viz. of Civil Law, Physic, and Rhetoric, to read lectures in the said sciences every week in Term-time, and allow them 50l. a year each, and 50l. per ann. to the Hospitals of Christ-Church, St. Bartholomew, Bedlam, and Southwark, and the Poultry-Compter 10l. in money, or other provisions, ordering and appointing further, that the said seven Lecturers shall have the occupation of all the said house, with the appurtenances, there to inhabit, study, and duly to read the said several lectures; which conditions, if the said Mayor, &c. and Company of Mercers, do truly observe, they shall enjoy the Royal-Exchange for ever, otherwise it shall revert and return to his heirs.

Sir Edward Coke, Lord Chief-justice of the King’s-Bench, and the greatest Lawyer that ever lived in England, was born at Mileham 1550, and educated in Trinity College, Cambridge, where he remained about four years,
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and then removed to Clifford's Inn, London, where his father, who was an eminent Barrister, had chambers.

The next year he was entered a Student of the Inner Temple, where he applied himself so assiduously to his studies, that his merit soon became conspicuous; for a case having been started concerning the privileges of the Cooke, it puzzled all the Benchers, till Mr. Coke discussed it in the clearest manner, for which the society ordered him to be called up to the Bar before the usual time.

When admitted a Counsellor his business continued to increase, and he was chosen reader of the lecture of Lyon's-Inn, which was much frequented by the young Nobility and Gentry at that time. He married an heiress, Bridget Paston, with a fortune of thirty thousand pounds, who bore him ten children, and the cities of Norwich, London, and Coventry, each elected him their Recorder.

In the latter end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, he was chosen Speaker of the House of Commons, having been returned Knight of the Shire for Norfolk, and soon after appointed Solicitor-General. In 1596 his Lady died, and the year following he married Lady Hatton, widow of Sir William Hatton, with whom he received a considerable fortune: and when the Earl of Essex was indicted for high treason, he was appointed Attorney-General, in order to carry on the prosecution against that unfortunate Peer.

Upon the accession of James I. he received the honor of Knighthood, and carried on the prosecution against Sir Walter Raleigh with so much vehemence, that many have blamed him for being so severe, but we may naturally impute his zeal to pride, and an earnest desire of preferment,

ment. When the Gun-powder Plot was discovered, he gained reputation by the sagacity and vigilance he shewed in unravelling all the dark scenes of that hellish contrivance, for which the King ordered him to be called up to the degree of Serjeant, when he gave the following motto on his rings,—*Lex est tutissima Classis*, i. e. The law is the safest helmet. He was soon after raised to the dignity of Chief-justice of the Court of Common-pleas, which he held about six years, and was then made Lord Chief-justice of the King's-bench.

When it was discovered that the Earl of Somerset and his Lady were concerned in the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury, Lord Chief-justice Coke granted his warrant for apprehending them, which was served upon the Earl while he was at supper with the King at Theobald's. Somerset claimed his Majesty's protection, but the King answered in his vulgar manner, “ Gude faith maun, I canno help it, for if Coke send for me, I must gang to him as well as you.”

The King was apprised of the scheme, but although the murderers were convicted, yet they were not executed. In 1616 he was suspended from his office because he would not countenance any incroachments on the liberty of the subject.

During the remainder of the reign of King James, he continued to serve in Parliament, and acted as a Privy Counsellor; but having spoken with great freedom in the House of Commons, his Chambers in the Temple were broke open, all his papers seized, and himself committed to the Tower.

On the accession of Charles I. when it was found necessary to call a new Parliament, he was pricked down Sheriff of Buckingham-shire, lest he should have been returned one of the representatives; so that the man, who had been Chief-justice of England, was obliged to attend as a Bailiff on the Judges.

In 1628 he was returned Knight of the Shire for the county of Buckingham, and argued warmly for the redress of grievances, and likewise drew up the petition of rights, upon which all our liberty is founded. Having done every thing in his power to serve his country, he retired to his house at Stoke-poges, in Buckingham-shire, where he spent the remainder of his days in tranquillity, and died 1634, with the utmost resignation and piety, aged 83.

“ Sir Edward Coke, Knt. was a person of admirable parts (says Mr. Cambden) than whom, as no man ever applied himself closer to the study of the common law, so never did any man understand it better; of which he has given a convincing proof to England by his discreet management for many years together, while he was Attorney-general, and executed the office of Lord Chief-justice of the Common-pleas with the greatest prudence. Nor has he given a less demonstration of his abilities in his Commentaries upon our Laws, whereby he has obliged not only his own age, but posterity.” But State-policy values nothing when it stands in the way of its designs. This wise Judge would do nothing against law while he was in so great a station, and therefore he was displaced in 1615, and retired to his seat at Godwick, where he triumphed in his own innocence, and rejoiced in his misfortunes, which gave him leisure to look into himself; for now he reviewed all his writings, had constant prayers in his house, relieved the
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poor daily, supported Sutton's Hospital and Thetford Free-school, and founded a school at his own charge in this place. He had when he was a private Lawyer secured some lands to the church of Norwich, which had like to have been lost; and when he was retired, hearing that a Peer had called the same lands in question, and was laboring to get them, he went to him and desired him to desist from that attempt, telling him, " that if he did not, he would put on his gown and cap, and plead in any Court in Westminster-hall in justification of what he had done." He had many benefices in his gift, and freely gave them to such men as he thought worthy of them, saying, in his law-language, church-livings should always pass by livery and seisin, not by bargain and sale.

He was a man of admirable parts, and of a comely countenance, delighting in good cloaths, saying, *The neatness of the body might denote the purity of the soul.* He died worth ten thousand pounds a year, so that though he had many children, they might be said to be all heirs. His last words were, *Lord! Thy Kingdom come! Thy will be done!* Sir Henry Spelman says, " the birth of this great man might presage his wonderful excellency; for his mother was delivered of him so suddenly, by the fire-side, that she could not be soon enough carried up to her bed, which stood in the room above;" and adds, that Sir Edward shewed him the very place. He lived partly at Godwick and at Milcham, his birth-place, where the house is still to be seen.

It has been advanced by those whose minds were never enlarged with reading and study, that the law is a dry, useless, insignificant science; but we think that even insanity could never advance such an assertion. All that is dear or valuable to the free born subjects of this nation, is
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secured by the municipal law, and if the most prejudiced reader will only look over the institutes, and reports of cases adjudged by Lord Coke, they will be convinced, that of all sciences in the world, that of the law is the most rational, as being suited to the nature of man, considered as a member of society. Without it the ends of government must be defeated, and all the order and regularity amongst the different ranks of beings become an universal chaos, and return to its original state of confusion.

Sir Henry Spelman, the great Oracle of the Law, Patron of the Church, and Glory of England, one of the greatest Antiquarians that ever lived in this nation, was born at Congham in 1562, and educated in Trinity College, Cambridge, from whence he removed to Lincoln's-Inn, and studied the laws of his country, rather as a science than with any prospect of gain, for he had a considerable estate of his own, and married a lady with a great fortune.

In 1606 he was pricked down High-sheriff for the county of Norfolk; and the year following appointed one of the Commissioners to regulate disputes between the pretenders to freehold estates in Ireland. After this he retired from public business, and spent the remainder of his days in studying the history and antiquities of his country, of which he has given the world a noble specimen in his Glossary, which explains all the ancient customs and terms used by our Saxon ancestors, and ought to be had in the library of every person who studies either Law or History. He died in 1641, aged 79, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

John Cofin, D. D. was born in the city of Norwich 1594, and finished his studies in Caius' College, Cambridge,

bridge, where he took his last degrees. When he entered into holy orders, he was presented to a Prebendary in the Cathedral church of Durham, and appointed Archdeacon of the East-riding of Yorkshire; but the civil wars breaking out, and Cosin having been very active in establishing Popish rites and ceremonies, he was ejected from all his preferments, and obliged to seek refuge abroad, till the restoration of Charles II. 1660, when he returned to England, and was promoted first to the Deanry of Peterborough, and then to the Bishopric of Durham.

We have seen several of his compositions, which seem to have been written on the plan of the Popish mystics, and during the eleven years that he was Bishop of Durham, his sole study was to promote superstitions, by making the people conform to all the ridiculous rites made use of by idolatrous Papists. He died at Durham 1672, aged 78.

John Pearson, D. D. was the son of a Clergyman in Norfolk, where he was born 1613. He received the first rudiments of grammatical learning at Eaton, from whence he was removed to King's College, Cambridge, where he finished his studies, and took his degrees.

His first ecclesiastical preferment was a Prebendary of Salisbury; and soon after he was chosen Rector of St. Clement's, East-cheap, where he remained till the Restoration 1660; for he complied with the ruling powers during the usurpation of Oliver Cromwell. It was during his residence in that parish that he wrote his elaborate and learned explanation of the Creed, which is now in high repute in all the Protestant nations in Europe, and remains a striking proof of his vast abilities and erudition.

At the Restoration he complied with the Act of Uniformity, and was appointed Archdeacon of Surrey; and on the death of the learned Dr. Wilkins, he was promoted to the see of Chester, where he continued till his death 1686. Besides his learned exposition of the Creed, he published a vindication of St. Ignatius's epistles, which we think was the worst thing he could have attempted, as those epistles are undoubtedly forgeries.

Sir Roger l'Estrange was born at Hunstanton 1617, and when the civil wars broke out, he obtained a commission in the Royal army, but having acted as a spy for the King, during the siege of Lynn-Regis, he was apprehended, and condemned to lose his life, but was afterwards reprieved, although he suffered a long imprisonment in the gaol of Newgate.

Having obtained his liberty, he went abroad, but returned again during the usurpation of Cromwell, when he was taken into custody; but upon a remonstrance made to the Protector, he was set at liberty. Upon the restoration of Charles II. he set up a news-paper, which was continued till the Gazette was begun, under the direction of Sir Joseph Williamson. When the disputes began in the House of Commons, concerning the Exclusion Bill, l'Estrange became a zealous partizan for the Duke of York, and wrote a periodical paper, called the *Observer*. He was concerned in all the dirty work carried on to promote Popery, and arbitrary power, during the reign of James II. although it does not appear that ever he became a convert to Popery.

He executed the scandalous office of Licensor to the Press, which was abolished at the Revolution, when Sir Roger lost all his employments; and not having been one
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of the best æconomists, he was obliged to spend the remainder of his days in writing and translating for the booksellers. He was certainly a man of great abilities; but learning bestowed on a time-serving wretch, is like beauty intrusted with a prostitute.

Thomas Shadwell was born in this county 1640, and educated in Caius and Gonville College, Cambridge, from whence he removed to the Middle Temple in London, to study the law of England; but not liking so laborious a profession, he went abroad, and spent several years in France and Italy. Upon his return to England he became acquainted with the most celebrated wits at the debauched Court of Charles II. and commenced a writer for the stage.

At the Revolution, when the celebrated Mr. Dryden was turned out, Mr. Shadwell was appointed Poet-Laureat in his room, and likewise Historiographer Royal, which brought upon him the indignation of his predecessor, who ridiculed all his performances in the poem called *Mach-fleckno*. He enjoyed these employments only a few years, for he died 1692, aged 52, and since his death a monument has been erected to his memory in Westminster Abbey. His works were published in four volumes octavo.

Robert Brady, M. D. was born in Norfolk, some time in the last century, and educated in Caius and Gonville College, Cambridge, where he took his degree of Master of Arts, and soon after entered his name on the physic line. Having taken his Doctor's degree, he was appointed Physician in Ordinary to Charles II. and Regius Professor in the university of Cambridge. He was likewise made Keeper of the Records in the Tower, and acquired a considerable degree

degree of knowledge concerning the constitution of this country ; but having unhappily imbibed notions inconsistent with the freedom of the subject, he wrote a History of England, in three volumes folio, wherein he endeavours to establish the doctrine of non-resistance and passive obedience.

This work has been animadverted on by Lord Lyttelton, in a manner becoming the abilities and patriotism of that noble author. Dr. Brady died 1700.

Sir Cloudsley Shovel was born of poor parents at Cley, or at Cockthorpe, 1650, and bound apprentice to a shoemaker, whom he soon after left, and went as a cabin-boy on board one of the King's ships. Being of a very tractable disposition, he soon acquired the knowledge of navigation, and whilst very young, was promoted to be a Lieutenant by Sir John Narborough, who then commanded the fleet.

In 1674 he was sent into the Mediterranean to demand restitution of some ships which were detained by the Dey of Algiers, where he behaved with so much resolution and bravery, that on his return to England he was advanced to the command of a larger vessel.

During the reign of James II. he adhered to the interest of his country, and although he was sent to command one of the ships in that fleet, destined to oppose the Prince of Orange, yet he did not act, but immediately joined with the popular party.

During all the wars in the reign of King William, he behaved with so much bravery, that he rose to the dignity of an Admiral ; and Queen Anne honoured him with
Knighthood.

Knighthood. He continued in a state of activity, as a gallant naval officer, till his death, which happened in the following manner:

Being appointed to conduct a fleet of ships from Gibraltar to England, 1707, he proceeded as far on his voyage as Scilly Islands, where his ship was unfortunately lost, and himself, with the whole of his crew, amounting to nine hundred men, drowned. Such was the end of one of the bravest men that ever commanded the English navy; but the Queen, out of respect to his memory, caused a fine monument to be erected for him in Westminster Abbey.

Humphry Hody was born in Norfolk 1658, and finished his studies in Wadham College, Oxford, of which he was chosen a Fellow, and soon after became Chaplain to the learned Doctor Stillingfleet, Bishop of Worcester. By the interest of Doctor Tennison, Archdeacon of Canterbury, he was advanced to several considerable livings; and the university of Oxford elected him Professor of the Greek language.

He was a very learned man, and spent several years in studying the Septuagint translation of the Old Testament, and in writing notes on Aristeas's history of that celebrated work. He died at his chambers in Oxford 1706, aged 48, and was buried in the chapel of Wadham College.

Samuel Clarke, D. D. was the son of Edward Clarke, Esq. one of the Aldermen of Norwich, where he was born 1675, and educated at the Free-school of that city, his father being at that time one of the Representatives in Parliament.

In 1691 he was entered as a Student in Caius College, Cambridge, where his impatient thirst and great capacity for learning began to shew themselves. The system of Des Cartes was then the favorite doctrine of the schools, but Mr. Clarke was not satisfied with the dreams of that author, but set himself to study the principles of Sir Isaac Newton, to which he joined the knowledge of the mathematics. He did not, however, forget to attend to that learning necessary to the profession for which he was designed, but applied himself with great diligence to acquire a perfect knowledge of the Old and New Testament, and published his first three dissertations concerning baptism, confirmation, and repentance, together with some reflections on Toland's *Amyntor*.

Upon his entering into holy orders he became Chaplain to the learned Doctor Moore, Bishop of Norwich, with whom he lived in great esteem, having the advantage of the fine library of that gentleman. In 1704 he was called to an office, worthy of all his learning and knowledge, namely, that of preaching the lecture founded by the Honorable Mr. Boyle, which he performed with such success, that his sermons on that occasion, concerning the evidences of natural and revealed religion, will always be considered as one of the strongest and clearest proofs of those important principles. Soon after his preaching the sermons at Boyle's lectures, he was presented to the living of St. Bennet's, near Paul's Wharf, London, and preached constantly without notes. In the same year he translated the optics of Sir Isaac Newton into elegant Latin, which was so acceptable to that great man, that he presented Mr. Clarke with five hundred pounds, being one hundred to each of his children.

He was soon after made one of the Chaplains in Ordinary, and in 1709 Queen Anne presented him to the rectory of St. James's, Westminster; when he went to Cambridge, and took his degree of Doctor in Divinity.

On the accession of the present royal family he was honored with many marks of their esteem, and might have been raised to the highest dignity in the church; but he was certainly unsatisfied with subscriptions. His zeal for true religion, integrity of manners, unaffected humility, were as eminent as his vast knowledge; and he united the various talents of mathematician, philosopher, critic, metaphysician, and divine, to such a degree, that he might have shone with a distinguished lustre in any one of those characters. This truly great and learned man was seized with a pleurisy on Sunday morning, May 11, 1729, and died the Saturday following, aged 54.

Thomas Herring, D.D. was the son of a country Clergyman in Norfolk, where he was born 1693. He was instructed in grammar learning at the Free-school of Wisbech, in the Isle of Ely, from whence he removed to Jesus College, Cambridge. He entered early into holy orders, and having gone through a variety of ecclesiastical preferments, he was promoted to the Bishopric of Bangor 1737.

In 1743 he was translated to the see of York, and when the rebellion broke out, he was very instrumental in keeping the gentry throughout his province in subjection to the government.

In 1747 he was advanced to the see of Canterbury, which high dignity he enjoyed till his death, 1757. Dr. Herring was one of the best men that perhaps ever lived in England.

England. The higher he rose in the church, the greater was his diligence, not only to discharge the duties of the pastoral office, but also to support his afflicted fellow-creatures, and when he died he had scarce any money left; but he was rich in good works!—He died aged 64 years.

Robert Bale, a Norfolk man, was Prior of a small monastery of White Friars, or Carmelites, at Burnham-Westgate. He was in his youth entered among the Carmelites at Norwich, but spent most of his time among those at Oxford and Cambridge, for his improvement in Divinity. At length he became Prior of the Carmelites here, and was held in great veneration by all for his great love of learning and learned men. He was assiduous in reading divinity and histories of all kinds, and for that end got together a considerable library of books, which he left to his house here. He wrote *Annales perbreves Ordinis Carmelitarum ab anno Mundi 3042*.—*Historia Eliæ Prophetæ*.—*Officium Simonis Angli*, i. e. *Simon Stock*, the most holy Carmelite of the order, who many years after his death was canonized; and several sermons, which were handed about among his order. He died in 1503, the 18th of Henry VII. and was buried in this monastery.

Dr. Thomas Lushington, Rector of Burnham-Westgate, one of the greatest scholars of his time, and on that account preferred to a Prebendary of Salisbury, King's Chaplain, &c. He was thought a little to favor Socinus, yet his books shew no such thing, of which he published several, viz. *A Comment on the Galatians*; *Logica Analytica*; *The Resurrection rescued from the Soldiers Calumnies*, &c.

Sir Francis Walsingham, Knt. was a great scholar, and particularly an excellent linguist, not so much for his

knowledge of other tongues, as for the dexterous use of his own, which brought him to be employed in the greatest affairs of the kingdom. He was first sent an Ambassador into France, where in the heat of the civil wars he continued long, because he managed his place so wisely and warily; and when he returned he was rewarded with the office of the Secretary of State, in which station his conduct is hardly to be paralleled; for he *surprized* business, and out-did even the Jesuits at their own weapon, over-reaching them in their mental equivocations and reservations, not by doing as they did, but by crafty-fetches drawing from them the truth. He never lost his aim in any business he labored to carry, and as often over-threw what he undertook to disappoint, by which arts he did great services for the nation, which he was only ambitious to excel in; for he twice deceived the French as Agent, once settled the Netherlands as Commissioner, and twice altered the Government of Scotland as Ambassador. He laid the foundation of the Protestant Constitution as to its policy, and the main plot against the Popish as to its ruin: He was a studious and temperate man, so public-spirited, that he spent his estate to serve the kingdom, so faithful to his Sovereign as to lay out all his thoughts and pains to serve her, and so learned as to provide a library for King's College. In fine, he equalled, if not surpassed, all the Statesmen of former ages, and none in these latter have excelled him.

He was descended from Sir Richard Walsingham, of Walsingham, who was Representative for this county, 33 Edward III. as his ancestors had been in two former reigns.

William

William Wells, a Provincial of the order of Augustinian Monks in England, was a native of Wells. Pitz in his book of English Writers, says, "he was a native of the city of Wells, the cathedral see of Somersetshire;" but Dr. Fuller, in his Worthies of Norfolk, proves the mistake thus: "Let it be referred to any indifferent judgment, whether he was not rather of Wells, in Norfolk, seeing he had his constant converse in this county, living and dying an Augustinian Monk in the convent of Lynn." He was twenty years Provincial of his order, and a Doctor of Divinity in Cambridge, an industrious man, and a good writer, abating only for the Siboleth Barbarism, the fault of the age he lived in. He died and was buried at Lynn, *anno Dom.* 1421.

Robert Rede, an eminent goldsmith, and Lord Mayor of London in 1502, was a native of Cromer.

Dr. William Rugg, *alias* Repps, Bishop of Norwich in the reign of Henry VIII. was born in the village of North-Repps. He was bred up in Gonville-hall, Cambridge, where he commenced D. D. and after was made Abbot of St. Bennet in the Holme. He was one of those Cambridge Divines that took abundance of pains that Henry VIII. should have such a judgment from the university about his divorce from Queen Catherine, as he desired, which at last he effected, and as a reward for his labor the King made him Bishop of Norwich after the death of Dr. Nix. He was chose by the Monks, May 31, 1536, and confirmed by the Archbishop June 28 following; but he did not enjoy the benefits of his see, as his predecessors had done, long; for soon after he was made Bishop, he was obliged to change all his lands and manors of his see for
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the revenues of his abbey of St. Bennet in the Holme *for ever*, under a pretence indeed of increasing the possessions of his Bishopric, though they really came far short of them. He was a stiff Roman Catholic, and having had some discourse with Bilney and Latimer about their Protestant principles, did not spare to misrepresent them, which moved Mr. Spencer, the friend of the two former, to write a treatise, which he intitled, *A Dialogue between Thomas Bilney, Hugh Latimer, and William Repps*, to shew the just complaints they had against him. But the greatest instance of his zeal for the Popish doctrines and church, which we meet with, was this: When one John Peke, of Earl-Stoneham, in Suffolk, was burnt at Ipswich, Dr. Reading declared, that to as many as should cast in a stick into the fire, for the burning of this heretic, this Bishop of Norwich had granted by him forty days of pardon; whereupon Sir John Audley, Knt. Barne Curson, Esq. and many others of estimation being there present, did rise from their seats, and with their swords cut down boughs, and threw them into the fire, which example the multitude followed. He resigned his Bishopric January, 1549, and died September, 1550.

Sir Simon de Felbrigg, Knt. of an ancient and numerous family at Felbrigg, married Margaret, the daughter of the Duke of Theise, niece to the King of Bohemia, in right of which Sir William Tyndal, Knt. their great-grandson, was declared heir of the kingdom of Bohemia, in the reign of Henry VII.

William Paston, Esq. son of Clement Paston, Esq. of Paston, was learned in the laws of this nation, and was first made Serjeant to Henry VI. and afterwards by the same King raised to be 2d Judge of the Court of Common-pleas;

pleas; and being much in favor with that Prince, he was allowed by him, besides the ordinary salary given the other Judges, one hundred and ten marks, and two gowns yearly, to be taken out of the Exchequer. These preferments were but the continued marks of his virtue and learning in the former reigns, for he was created Serjeant at Law by Henry IV. and of his council for the Duchy of Lancaster; and in the reign of Henry V. Sir John Fastolf, Knt. appointed him one of his feoffees, and enabled him, by a writing under his hand, to recover debts from the executors of Henry V. He married the daughter and heiress of Sir Edmund Berry, by whom his family gained not only a great accession to their estate, but a considerable advancement in honor and blood, being rightly entitled to the arms of the families of Hetherfet, Wacheham, Craven, Gerbridge, Hemgrave, and Kerdeston. He died at London, August 14, 1444.

Sir Clement Paston, Knt. was a great soldier, and as such did many noble exploits; for he was at the burning of Conquest, in France, in the reign of Henry III. and being made a Captain by that King of one of his ships of war, he, in a sea-fight with the French, took a galley with Baron Blancard, the French Admiral, in it, and kept him at Caistor, near Yarmouth, till he received 7000 crowns for his ransom, besides the spoil of the galley, which was a cup and two snakes of gold, with many other things of value, which he used on festivals as long as he lived, and at his death left to his posterity. He was left for dead at the battle of Musselborough, in Scotland, and served at Newhaven, having the command of some ships there. He lived to be very old, having been Pensioner to two Kings and two Queens successively, and having spent his old age in quiet and good housekeeping, he died at Oxnead.

Sir Robert Paston, of Paston, Bart. who in former troublesome times greatly distinguished himself by his loyalty to Charles I. not fearing to hazard both life and fortune in assisting his Majesty to reduce his rebellious subjects to their obedience; and though disappointed of that by his Majesty's not only falling into, but falling by the hands of his disloyal and capricious subjects, yet he was not disheartened from using his utmost endeavours and power to effect his son's Restoration, and till that could be accomplished, willingly engaging his estate to supply his necessities: In consideration of which loyalty and services, Charles II. did by his letters patent create him Lord Paston, of Paston, and afterwards Viscount and Earl of Yarmouth. He died in 1682, and left William, his eldest son, his successor in honor and estate, who married Charlotte, surnamed Fitz-Roy, natural daughter of Charles II.

Sir Thomas Erpingham, of Erpingham, Knight of the Garter, accompanied Henry Duke of Lancaster when he returned from banishment, and attempted to gain the kingdom, and going with Henry V. to the battle of Agincourt, cast the rod, as a fortunate presage of a successful battle.

Sir William Woodhouse, of Waxham, Knt. was the jester of James I. He was the first person that erected duck-traps, commonly called *decoys* among us, which he thus contrived. He drew from a large pond compassed with reeds on the one side, a long canal, which was very narrow at the farther end. In this canal certain ducks are kept, and taught to draw in others. These fly up and down all the country, and being joined by flocks of their own kind, bring them into this pond, and after a while lead them into the canal, which is spread over with nets. When they

They have swam in it a little way, a dog trained up for that purpose appears to drive them up to the end of the net, where, when they are near arrived, the tame ducks dive behind the wild, and the wild rising are taken in the decoy-man's nets. As many ducks are caught this way in one year as have been sold for some hundreds of pounds. The Germans will not allow them, because they hinder the pleasures of the gentry.

Arthur Wilson, Esq. born at Yarmouth, wrote the life and reign of James I. with so much freedom, that he is often censured for it; nay more, is said, instead of an history, to have written an infamous pasquil. He had an opportunity of knowing the transactions of James I. and his Court, because he was an attendant for many years upon Robert D'Evereux, Earl of Essex, and his friends, whom he favours very much all along in his history, as he does also Robert Earl of Warwick, whose Steward he was after the Earl of Essex's death. The great fault of his history is, that he hath in many things endeavoured to make the world believe, that James, and his son after him, were inclined to Popery, and designed to bring that religion into England; which to effect he is guilty of many misrepresentations of both speeches and actions, and built much upon conjectures and surmises, instead of authentic papers and records. He died at Felstead, in Essex, *anno* 1652.

Thomas Whitfield, who was the author of divers books against Lay-preachers; *The Arminian Tenets concerning Election, Redemption, &c.* printed at London, 1649; *Of Liberty of Conscience*; *The Extent of God's Providence*, printed *ib.* 1651, &c. was Minister of Yarmouth. He ran with the times when the King and Episcopacy were outed; but

conformed at the Restoration of Charles II. when he obtained the Rectory of Bugbrooke, in Northampton-shire.

Dr. Thomas Soame was born in Yarmouth: He was the son of a fisherman, but descended of an eminent family of that name; his cousin, John Soame, being a man of so good an estate, that he paid a composition of 143*ol.* for it, and was then dwelling at Burnham, in this county. He was, after he had passed his school education, bred up in academic learning in Peter-house, Cambridge, where his uncle, Robert Soame, was Master, and being admitted into holy orders, became Minister of Staines, in Middlesex, and Prebendary of Windfor. He was, in the times of rebellion, a firm royalist, and so much compassionated his Majesty's want in his war with the Parliament, that he was not mindful of his own; for he sent all he had to the King; so that when the Rebels came to plunder him, they found nothing to take but himself; which they accordingly did, and imprisoned him first in Ely-house, and then in Newgate, and in the Fleet, because he had so much of the primitive religion in his excellent sermons, and so much of the primitive practice in his looks, demeanour, and life, being reckoned a blessing in those sad times to all the places wherever he came, by his fatherly aspect and zealous prayers, as well as by his divine, and in many things propheticall discourses. He died not long before the Restoration of Charles II.

Ralph de Waher, or Guader, born in this county*, of French parentage, was constituted Earl of Norfolk and Suffolk by William I. He was owner of the castle of Guader, in Bretaine, in France, and had nine manors of
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* Probably at Halvergate, or Halfriate.

the Conqueror's gift, in Norfolk, yet rebelled, and died in banishment.

———— Breton, Bishop of Hereford, was born at Witchingham, as was also John Breton, who was so much mentioned in the reign of Henry III. Sir Godfrey de Mellers, Knight, a person well descended, and a good soldier, fought to the death the daughter of John Breton; which she having acquainted her father with, appointed a night when the Knight should steal privately into her chamber. Being laid wait for, and taken, he was first grievously wounded, then whipped severely, being drawn up by the feet to a beam, and lastly, had his privy members cut off, as a certain dainty Clergyman was served about the same time; which, when the King heard of, he was concerned, and caused it to be proclaimed, “ That no man should maim any adulterer in his privities, but for corrupting his wife.”

Godfrey Bullen, or Boleyn, born at Sall, the son of Jeffrey Bullen, a mercer, in London, who was Lord Mayor of the said city in the year 1457. He was a second son, and so was sent to London to get an estate, while his elder brother inherited one; but this also came to him, because his brother died without issue male, and so he became very rich, which made him rich in good works: for he, by his Testament, gave liberally to prisoners, hospitals, and lazars, besides a 100*l.* to poor house-keepers in London, and 200*l.* to those in Norfolk: But his greatest honor was, that he was great-grandfather, by the mother's side, to Queen Elizabeth.

Nicholas of Lynn, born in Lynn-Regis, and bred at Oxford, generally accounted a Franciscan Friar, though Bale will have him a Carmelite, because he was so himself. He was an excellent musician, mathematician, and astro-

loger. He is said to have sailed in 1330, by the help of his astrolabe, as far as the Arctic-pole, and to have wrote a book of his discoveries there, which is intituled, *Inventio Fortunata*. Sure it is that our Chaucer, the poet, had a great esteem for him, styling him “ Frere Nich. Linn, a Reverend Clerk.” He died about the year 1360, and was buried at Lynn, the place of his nativity.

Alan of Lynn was also born in Lynn-Regis, and being educated at Cambridge, where he obtained the degree of Doctor of Divinity, became a Carmelite Friar in this town. He was a diligent reader of many voluminous authors, and that others might reap some benefit by his labors, he composed indexes to most, or all the authors he perused. Bale gives us a specimen of his Herculean labors in setting down the writers to which he made indexes, as he saw them in the Carmelite library at Norwich.

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| 1. <i>Egidius.</i> | 18. <i>Gerard Lood.</i> |
| 2. <i>Alcuinus.</i> | 19. <i>Gilbert.</i> |
| 3. <i>Ambrosius.</i> | 20. <i>Gorham.</i> |
| 4. <i>Anselmus.</i> | 21. <i>Gregory.</i> |
| 5. <i>Aquinas.</i> | 22. <i>Haymo.</i> |
| 6. <i>Augustinus.</i> | 23. <i>Hierome.</i> |
| 7. <i>Balouthorp.</i> | 24. <i>Hilary.</i> |
| 8. <i>Bosil.</i> | 25. <i>Hugo.</i> |
| 9. <i>Bede.</i> | 26. <i>Josephus.</i> |
| 10. <i>Belethus Bles.</i> | 27. <i>Neckham.</i> |
| 11. <i>Bernard.</i> | 28. <i>Origen.</i> |
| 12. <i>Berthorius.</i> | 29. <i>Euseb. Pamph.</i> |
| 13. <i>Cassianus.</i> | 30. <i>Phil. Ribot.</i> |
| 14. <i>Cassiodorus.</i> | 31. <i>Raban.</i> |
| 15. <i>Chrysostome.</i> | 32. <i>Renigius.</i> |
| 16. <i>Cyril.</i> | 33. <i>Richard.</i> |
| 17. <i>Damasene.</i> | |

His collections were allowed very compleat. He flourished *anno* 1420, and was buried at Lynn, in the convent of the Carmelites.

John Barret, born of honest parentage in Lynn-Regis, was bred a Carmelite of White Friars in Cambridge, when learning ran very low, and degrees high, interest or money, not knowledge, purchasing them. The university was so sensible of this abuse, that they appointed Dr. Cranmer Poser-general of all candidates in divinity, who stopped this our Barret for insufficiency. Barret quickened with this disgrace returns to Lynn, and there applied himself so diligently to his study, that in a short time he became an admirable scholar, and having commenced Doctor with due applause, lived many years a painful preacher in Norwich, ever speaking of Dr. Cranmer honorably, as the only means of his happiness. Bale says, "That in the reign of Queen Mary he became a zealous Papist;" which if true (though Bale's praises are better believed than his invectives) we may hope, that though he complied in times of persecution, he returned to the truth in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, in the beginning of which he died.

William Watts, M. A. of Caius College, Cambridge, an admirable critic and divine, was born in or near Lynn-Regis. Jo. Ger. Vossius calls him *Doctissimus & Clarissimus Watsius qui optime de Historia meruit*, &c. He by his travels became master of divers languages, and at his return was made Chaplain to Charles I. Minister of St. Alban's Woodstreet, in London, and Prebendary of Wells; but being sequestered, plundered, and his wife and children turned out of doors, he fled to the King, served under
Prince

Prince Rupert, and was in most of the battles fought with the Parliament forces. Upon the declining of the King's cause, he stuck still to the Prince and served at sea, till being blocked up with him in the harbour of Kinsale, in Ireland, he was overtaken with an incurable distemper, of which he died in 1649. He was a considerable writer, and had an especial hand in Sir Henry Spelman's *Glossary*, and corrected, added notes to, and published *Matthæw Paris's Historia Major* in 1640; as also diverse treatises in English, as the history of *Gustavus Adolphus*; *Mortification Apostolical*; a treatise on the *Passions*, &c.

William Gale, a Norfolk man born, took upon him the habit of the Augustin Friars in Lynn-Regis. He studied among the brethren of his order at Oxford several years, and proceeded Doctor of Divinity in that university. He was made at length Provincial of all his order in England, being accounted a most eminent person for literature and piety, and a prime example of virtue among them. He left to posterity these books: 1. *Lectiones in Theologia*. 2. *Disputationes Variæ*. 3. A course of *Sermons* for the whole year, preached to the people. He died in 1507, in the 23d of Henry VII.

Fœlix, the Apostle of the East-Angles, having landed from Burgundy at Babingley, *anno Dni*. 630, he converted the inhabitants to Christianity, and built the *first* church there that was erected in those parts. He was brought into England by Sigibert, King of the East-Angles, who became a convert to the Christian religion in France, and received baptism of Fœlix. Fœlix having spread and established the faith in many parts of England, formed a regular system of church doctrine, and fixed his episcopal see

fee at Dunwich, then called Silthestow. He sat seventeen years, and died in 647, the 13th of King Anna.

Thomas Thorowgood, one of the assembly of divines, was Minister of Grimston. He published these books: 1. *Jews in America.* 2. *Moderation Justified.* 3. *A Fast Sermon on Phil. iv. 5. before the House of Commons in 1644,*

St. Goderick the Hermit, of whose life and miracles M. Paris gives a relation at large, was a native of Walpole.

Of the many great and eminent persons of the illustrious family of Howard, we must refer our readers to the particular genealogy given at Forncet, in Depwade hundred; at Wiggenhall, Lopham, Castle-Rising, &c.

John Colton, D. D. born at Terrington, was made, for his excellent endowments, Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of Ireland, by Richard II. for, as Leland says, he was *plus quam mediocriter doctus & bonus*. He was First Chaplain to William Bateman, Bishop of Norwich, and appointed the First Master of Gonville-hall, (now Caius College) in Cambridge, by the founder of it. He was employed in an embassy to the Court of Rome, about the Schism made in it by Urban VI. and Clement VII. which gave him occasion to write a learned treatise, *De Causa Schismatis*, and a little after another, *De Remediis ejusdem*. He resigned his Archbishopric a little before his death, which happened in 1404.

Sir William Yelverton, Knt. of the Bath, of Rougham, was Lord Chief-justice of the Court of King's-bench in 1444: Sir Christopher presided in the said Court under
Queen

Queen Elizabeth, and Sir Henry in the reign of Charles I. This last's relation to Sir Thomas Overbury brought him into the Earl of Somerset's favor, whose interest with the King preferred him to be first one of his Counsel, and then his Attorney-general; but by whom he got it for the same he lost it; for when the Earl of Somerset was to be tried for poisoning Sir Thomas Overbury, he refused to do his office in impeaching his patron, and ruin him, who made himself, which was so much resented by the King and Council, that he not only displaced, but imprisoned him in the Tower. The Duke of Buckingham knowing his abilities, after some time got him released, and advanced him to the Judge's Bench; but his niceness and narrowness could not keep it, being too good a man to follow Court measures, and so he was put out.

Andrew Perne, born at East Bilney, who being bred up in Peter-house, was Fellow and Master of the said college, Proctor and Vice-chancellor of the university, and Dean of Ely. He was very bountiful to his college, in which he founded a Fellowship and some Scholarships, and acquired many rare manuscripts, which he put into the library. In Queen Mary's persecution he screened the university by his flexible principles, so that no grievance of the university suffered martyrdom. He is indeed blamed for altering his religion four times in twelve years, but it may be said for him, that if his compliance was faulty, his charity was singular, who endangered himself to save others, who had else been persecuted, and perhaps had fell more foully.

Withburga, the daughter of King Anna, who divorcing herself entirely from all luxury and levity, lived a Virgin all her days, and was buried at Dereham; she being much admired for her sanctity, was by our ancestors canonized for a Saint.

Sir Richard Southwell, of Wood-Rising, Counsellor to Edward VI. and his brother, Robert Southwell, Esq. at the same time Master of the Rolls. Of the same family was Sir Robert Southwell, Principal Secretary of State for the kingdom of Ireland, and President of the Royal-Society, who by Charles II. had been employed in several negotiations abroad.

The Rev. Christopher Sutton, Minister of Wood-Rising and Cranworth, was educated at Oxford, and having entered into orders, was not only the Minister of these places, but was made Prebendary of Westminster by James I. for his excellent and florid preaching. In his cures he was a great promoter of piety, and for that end wrote several books, as 1. *Disce vivere; or, the Art of Living well.* 2. *Disce mori; or, the Way to die well.* 3. *Meditations upon the Lord's Supper*, of which there are thirteen editions. 4. *Godly Meditations on the Divine Presence.* He died in 1629, and was buried in St. Peter's church, Westminster.

Ralph de Hingham, of Hingham, was Lord Chief-justice of the King's-bench in 1274, 2d of Edward I. when the King was newly returned from the Holy Land. He held that post sixteen years, and was one of the Judges that was cast out of his place by Parliament for corruption, being fined, banished, and imprisoned, with nine more, two only escaping, viz. John de Mettingham, and Elias de Beckingham. This Ralph was amerced 7000 marks for bribery, and displaced; but after his fine was paid, he gave such signs of a true repentance, and such satisfaction to the public for his faults, that he was made Chief-justice of the Common-pleas in the next reign, 1st of Edward II. and dying soon after, was buried in St. Paul's church.

Sir Oliver Hingham, a right valiant man, whom Edward III. left Governor of Aquitain, in France, an honorable but difficult place, being engaged to hold out a great country with a few men, against a fierce and numerous enemy, yet he gave a good account of his trust; for when the French lay before Bourdeaux, the citizens there set open their gates, and raised the golden lillies upon their towers, as if they yielded themselves to them; but they were no sooner entered, but brave Oliver, who was Governor of the city and country, gave them such an entertainment, that "they did not drink so much claret in the city as they left blood behind them." This happened in the 13th of Edward III. He lived many years after, and was made Knight of the Garter, and when he died was buried as Hingham, under a fair tomb of free-stone, curiously wrought, with his effigy in coat of armour.

St. Walstane, of Bawburgh, who being neither Monk, nor Priest, vowed (they say) to live chaste without a wife, and performed his promise by fasting on Fridays, and Saints Vigils, without any other grace or gift given him of God. He died *3d kal. Junij, anno 1016*, and became, after the manner of Priapus, the God of their fields in Norfolk, and guide of the harvest, insomuch, that mowers and scythe-followers used to seek to him once a year. John Capgrave, in his Legend of the Saints, says, "That both men and beasts which had lost their privy-parts, had new members again restored to them by praying to him."—*Bale's Acts of the Engl. Vor.*

Sir Thomas Richardson was born at Mulbarton, his father at that time being Minister there. He was bred up in the common-law, and grew so eminent in the practice of it, that he became the King's Serjeant, and at length was
sworn

sworn Chief-justice of the Common-pleas, November 28, 1626; in which station he died about eight years after, and was buried under a brass monument on the South-side of Westminster-Abbey.

Sir Jacob Astley, who served his Majesty Charles I. as Major-general of his royal army in the battles of Kington, Brainford, Newberry, Lestwithiel, and several other sharp encounters with the Parliament forces, and was Governor of Oxford and Reading for some time; for which great and faithful services he was created Baron Astley, of Reading, in Berkshire, November 4, 1644. He was the son of Isaac Astley, of Melton-Constable.

Walter de Norwich, who in the 5th of Edward II. was made one of the Barons of the King's Exchequer, and had summons to Parliament in the 8th year of the same reign, was a person much in favor with his Prince, and besides the grant he obtained of him for a free-warren in all his demesne lands in this and other counties, he was made Treasurer of the Exchequer, and held that office some years.

Sir John de Norwich, Knt. who was summoned to Parliament as a Baron in the 16th of Edward III. was Admiral of the King's whole fleet to the Northwards, and was several times in the wars against Scotland and France, in which he did so many signal services, that the King gave him two allowances out of his Exchequer; the one of sixty pounds fourteen shillings, and the other of fifty marks per ann. &c.

Sir Tho. Browne, born at St. Michael's Cheap, London, but chiefly admirable for his practice of physic in the city of Norwich, where he settled himself in 1637, was much

resorted to by patients for his extraordinary skill, and practised with good success many years. With respect to his great worth he was made a *Socius Honorarius* of the College of Physicians in London, and in 1671 had the honor of Knighthood conferred upon him by his Majesty Charles II. who was then at Norwich. He died October 19, 1682, and lies buried in the chancel of St. Peter's of Mancroft; but will ever live in the esteem and admiration of the learned, for the several writings he hath published, as

Religio Medici, i. e. *The Physician's Religion*: A book so much valued, that it has been translated into French, Italian, Dutch, German, &c. and perused by many curious and learned men of those nations, as well as England, with great delight. Alexander Rosse, a Scotchman, answered it in a book, intitled *Medicus Medicatus*; but Sir Kenelm Digby thought it worth his time to make some English annotations upon it. It was printed at London in 1642.

Pseudodoxia Epidemica; or, *An Enquiry into such common and vulgar errors, as ordinarily pass for received Truths*. First printed at London, in 1646, and last in 1673, much enlarged by the author, with many explanations, additions, and alterations. This book was also answered by Alexander Rosse, in his *Arcana Microcosmi*, and John Robinson's *Eudoxa*.

Urn Burial; or, *A Discourse of Sepulchrial Urns lately found in Norfolk*. Printed at London, in 1658. To which is added, *The Garden of Cyrus*; or, *The Quincunical Lozenge, and Network Plantations of the Ancients, Artificially, Naturally, and Mystically considered, with Observations*.

Certain.

Certain Miscellany Tracts, No. 13. Printed at London, in 1686. *With an Epistle prefixed by the Publisher, Dr. Thomas Tennison*, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. All these works, and some few more, were printed together, in folio, in 1686.

Richard Foulsham, a Monk of the city of Norwich, was a person much beloved by Thomas Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury, for his singular piety and extraordinary learning. It is probable he had been a great traveller; for all that we find of his writings is only two books of epistles, many of which are written to his correspondents at Rome. He flourished in 1410.

John Stow, a Benedictine Monk of the monastery of St. Saviour, in Norwich, and Doctor of Divinity of Oxford. It appears by his works that he was at the Council of Basil. Those works are, *The Acts of the Council at Basil*; *Various Collections*, and *Solemn Disputations*, &c. He flourished in 1440.

John Mear, a Monk of Norwich, and Doctor of Divinity of Oxford, was a person of subtle wit for explaining difficulties. He is said to have been Divinity-reader in several monasteries, and to have been a frequent preacher. His works were preserved in the library of Norwich, till the suppression of monasteries; but now we have only these titles of them: *On the Master of the Sentences and Sermons*. When he died it doth not appear.

Thomas Brinton, or Brampton, another Monk of Norwich, who had attained to such an eminency for learning in the schools of England, that his fame was spread abroad beyond sea, and he was sent for by the Pope to Rome, where he often preached before him in Latin, and being
first

first made his Penitentiary, was afterwards raised to the see of Rochester. His sermons preached before the Pope were published with some others.

Edward Browne, son of Sir Thomas, born in Norwich, at first a great traveller, and after his return became a Fellow of the Royal Society, and of the college of Physicians, (where he was Censor in 1683) and Physician in Ordinary to his Majesty Charles II. He hath written and published, 1. *A brief Account of his Travels in Hungaria, &c. with some Observations on the Gold, Silver, &c. Mines, Baths, and Mineral Waters in those Parts.* 2. *An Account of his Travels through a great Part of Germany, in four Journeys.* Printed at London in 1679. 3. *He has several Discourses also in the Philosophical Transactions and Collections.* And 4. *He has translated the Lives of Themistocles and Sertorius out of Plutarch's Greek into English.* Printed at London, in 1683 and 1684.

John Goslin, born in Norwich, was first Fellow, and then Master of Caius College, in Cambridge, Proctor of that university, and twice Vice-chancellor thereof, a general scholar, eloquent Latinist, and a rare Physician, in which faculty he was Regius Professor. He was a great benefactor to Catherine-hall, bestowing on it the Bull-inn, of considerable value, which being now added to the college, makes it very spacious, which before was close, and almost suffocating. He died in the Vice-chancellorship in 1625.

Robert Watson was born in Norwich also. He was excellently well skilled in the laws, and was Steward of the Courts of Archbishop Cranmer, as Bale tells us, *Descript. Brit. Cent. 9, No. 81.* Being imprisoned for his religion in Queen Mary's time, he often disputed, during his restraint, with several Papists concerning Transubstantiation;

tiation; and having at length gained his enlargement, he wrote a treatise in elegant Latin, (dedicating it to such as with him had suffered banishment, or imprisonment, for religion) wherein he relates the accidents of his life.

Sir Peter Read, though not certainly known to be a native or inhabitant of Norwich, yet may deserve a place here, because he lies buried in St. Peter's church there, having this inscription on his monument:

“ Hercunder lieth the corps of Peter Read, Esq. who hath worthily served not only his Prince and country, but also the Emperor Charles the Fifth, both at his conquest of Barbary, and his siege of Tunis, as also in other places, who had given him by the said Emperor the Order of Barbary, who died the 29th of December, in the year of our Lord God 1566.”

If it be demanded why this title of Knight was not set on his tomb, but Esquire only? It is answered, he was knighted by the Emperor, and Queen Elizabeth would suffer no foreign honors to be worn by her subjects in her dominions, saying, *Her sheep should be known by her own mark only.* Camb. Eliz.

Thomas Spenser, son of Leonard Spenser, of Norwich, being from his youth addicted to learning and piety, became a Carthusian at Henton, in Somersetshire, from whence he went to Oxford to go through a course of divinity. Being returned he wrote, 1. *A Comment on the Galatians.* 2. *A Dialogue between Thomas Bilney and Hugh Latimer, two Protestants, with William Repps, afterwards Bishop of Norwich, a Roman Catholic, in 1536.* He died
in

in 1529, and was buried in his monastery, leaving behind him a rare example of piety.

Henry Howard, youngest son of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, and brother to Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, was born at Shottisham. He was bred a serious Student for many years in King's College, Cambridge, and afterwards in Trinity-hall, where waving the advantages of an honorable birth, he proceeded by the ordinary steps to the degree of Master of Arts. He, by his diligence, became a great and general scholar, as he proved himself to be by his large and learned work, intitled, *A Dispensation against the Poison of supposed Prophecies*, which he dedicated to Sir Francis Walsingham, then Secretary of State to Queen Elizabeth, with what design is not known; but with whatever it was, he lived privately all that Queen's reign; but when James I. came to the Throne, he being noted for his learning, was drawn from his retirement, and highly preferred by that Prince; for in the 1st year of his reign he was constituted one of his Privy-council, Warden of the Cinque-ports, and Constable of Dover-castle, and in the end of the same year advanced to the honor of a Baron of this Realm, by the title of Lord Howard, of Marnhill, and Earl of Northampton, and not long after appointed one of the Commissioners for exercising the office of Earl Marshal of England, and installed one of the Knights of the most noble order of the Garter, and a year or two after made Lord Privy Seal: All which preferments being heaped upon him, not so much for his noble pedigree, as for his learning, sucked from the breasts of his mother, the University of Cambridge, which relation obliged that learned body to chuse him their Chancellor.

He was left a younger brother's estate by his father, which was but small, and before his preferments, by his eldest brother, Thomas Duke of Norfolk's death, was at one time reduced to follow a fortune, that when he wanted a dinner in London, and had no money to buy one, he was forced to dine with Duke Humphrey in St. Paul's; but fortune hanging in James's reign, he attained to great wealth, honor, and command. He never married, and for supporting children to provide for, he perpetuated his memory by noble and pious works, which is much the best way of using riches; for besides a noble house at Charing-cross, which he built for himself out of the ruins of a certain religious-house that stood there, called Rownceval, he founded and endowed an hospital for twelve poor women, and a Governor, at Castle-Rising, in Norfolk, as is there related; and another for twelve poor men, and a Governor, at Clun, in Shropshire; and another at Greenwich, in Kent, for a Governor and twenty poor men, eight of which are to be chosen out of the village of Shottisham, where he was born.

He died at his house near Charing-cross, June 15, 1614, and was buried in the church of Dover-Castle, under a goodly monument of white marble, with an epitaph, briefly comprehending what is before mentioned memorable of him in elegant Latin, either contrived or composed by John Griffith, his Secretary.

Sir James Hobart, of Hales-hall, near Loddon, Attorney-general to Henry VII. who knighted him, with his son, the Prince of Wales. By his many charitable and public-spirited acts, he deserved well of the church, the commonwealth, and his country. Sir Henry Hobart, a Judge in James the First's reign, was collaterally descended from

him. He was one of the first of the polite orators of his time, and his reports are esteemed by the lawyers the best for smoothness of language. He was made a Baronet at the first creation, and stands the ninth in the list. He was Attorney-general, and afterwards Lord Chief-justice of the Common-pleas; Chancellor to the Prince of Wales, Member in Parliament for Norwich, and Governor of the Charter-house. His descendant, Sir Henry Hobart, was several times Knight of the Shire for this county, but was some years ago killed in a duel by Mr. Le Neve. The Baronetage is now in the Right Hon. the Earl of Buckinghamshire.

John Leman, an eminent fishmonger, son of John Leman of Gillingham, was Lord-mayer of London in the year 1616.

John de Thorp, born at Thorp-Abbots, was bred a Carmelite Friar in Norwich, and commenced a Doctor at Cambridge. Logic seems to have been his chief piece of learning, in which he most delighted, for he wrote a book, which he intitled, *The Labyrinth of Sophisms*, and another, which he called *The Rule of Consequences*, for which he got the title among the academics of *Doctor Ingeniosus*: But Dr. Fuller says, if he was ingenious he was not ingenuous; to every pound of wit he had hardly a drachm of good nature; for he was of a cruel disposition, and a violent persecutor of William White, and other godly followers of Wickliffe. He died *anno Dni*. 1440.

Sir William Le Neve, Clarencieux King of Arms, of Aflaston, was educated at Caius College, in Cambridge, and being made his Majesty's servant, closely adhered to his cause, and often ran the hazard of his life in the civil wars, in summoning garrisons to surrender to the King,
and

and upon denial proclaiming them traitors, as well as lost his estate. He was very skilful in his art, and made many collections of ceremonies, funeral-inscriptions, &c. often quoted by Elias Ashmole, Esq. in his book of the institution of the Order of the Garter. He was in his latter days lunatic, and dying at Hodfden, was buried at St. Bennet's Paul's-wharf, London, August 15, 1661. We suppose the late Peter Le Neve, Esq. of the Herald's-office, was descended from him.

John Skelton, the King's Orator and Poet-laureat, is an honor to Dis, being the Minister of it. 'Tis probable he was born in this county, because it is well known there has been a family of that name long fixed here, but the place not being found out, we choose to speak of him where he was Minister. Erasmus, a man of unquestionable judgment, gives this character of him in his letter to Henry VIII. *Britannicarum Literarum Lumen & Decus*, i. e. The light and honor of the British learning. Indeed he was scholar enough, and no bad poet, unless for himself; for giving himself too much to satire, he created three such enemies as ruined him both in reputation, liberty, and estate. William Lilly, the great Schoolmaster, and author of our Latin grammar, he reflected upon as a bad versemaker, to which Lilly replied,

Skeltone, dum tibi parare famam,
Et doctus fieri, studes poeta,
Doctrinam nec habes, nec es poeta.

That is,

*Whilst Skelton thou to get esteem
A learned poet fain wouldst seem,*

*Skelton thou art, let all men know it,
Neither learned nor a poet.*

The Dominican Friars were very obnoxious to his satirical pen for their vices, and he could not forbear exercising his wit upon them; but they would not bear any reproofs, much less his poetical scoffs, whereupon they stirred up Richard Nix, Bishop of Norwich, to call him to account for keeping a concubine, which the Bishop accordingly did, and suspended him from his benefice for it. Cardinal Wolsey completed his misfortunes, for he having inveighed against some of that great Prelate's actions, and charged him with too much truth, the Cardinal so prosecuted him, that he was forced to take sanctuary at Westminster, where Abbot Islip treated him with much respect. In this confinement he died June 21, 1529, and was buried in St. Margaret's chapel, under a stone, with this epitaph on it:

J. Skeltonus Vates Pierius hic situs est.

He foretold Cardinal Wolsey's downfall, and being charged with keeping a concubine, and having several children by her, he said, "in his conscience he ever esteemed her for his wife," though he did not declare it, because fornication was thought a little sin, and marriage a great one. He wrote fifty several things upon several subjects, some of them whimsical enough, as on the Virgin of Kent, Sonnets on Dame Anne, Elenor Rummin, the famous Alewife, Colyn-Clout, &c.

We have the copy of a severe satire, intitled, "Skelton, Laureate, against the Scottes," on the battle of Floddon, September 9, 1530, which concludes thus:

"Of the out yles, the rough-foted Scottes,
"We have well eased them of the bottles,"

"The

- “ The rude rancke Scottes, like droncken dranes
 “ At Englysh bowes have fetched their banes;
 “ It is not fitting in tower or towne
 “ A summer to were a Kynge’s crowne.
 “ Fortune on you therefore did frowne,
 “ Ye were to hye, ye are cast downe.
 “ Syr Summer, now, where is your crowne?
 “ Cast of your crowne, cast up your crowne,
 “ Syr Summer, now, ye have lost your crowne.

*Quod Skelton, Laureate, oratour to the
 Kinge’s most royal estate.”*

Sir Thomas Lovel, of East Harling, Knight of the Garter, Treasurer of the Household, and President of the Council in the reign of Henry VII.

Sir Thomas Gaudy, of Gaudy-hall, in the parish of Reddenhall, Serjeant at Law, and brother of Sir Thomas Gaudy, Knt. Lord Chief-justice of the King’s-bench, and Sir Francis Gaudy, Knt. Lord Chief-justice of the Common-pleas, had a feat at Harling.

Sir John Williamson, Knt. one of the principal Secretaries of State in the reign of Charles II. built the town-house at Thetford at his own expence, and gave the corporation a mace, and sword, but it is not certain whether he was a native of the borough, or only represented it in Parliament.

Sir John Knevet, Knt. of Buckenham-castle, was Lord Chancellor in the reign of Edward III. and Thomas Lord Knevet, of Ashwelthorpe, was a descendant of his.

Thomas

Thomas Weyland, of Oxburgh, Lord Chief-justice of the Common-pleas in the 18th of Edward I. was, with several others of the Judges, banished for his notorious bribery, by Parliament.

Edward Barkham, the son of Edward Barkham, a draper, in London, was Lord Mayor in the year 1621.

Dr. Robert Burhill, or Burghill, Minister of Northwold, was bred in Corpus Christi College, Oxford, of which he was Probationer Fellow, and being in holy orders had this parsonage conferred on him, and not long after a residentiaryship in the church of Hereford. He was a person of great reading and judgment, well versed in the fathers and schoolmen, a good linguist and disputant. Sir Walter Raleigh much valued him for his great learning, and used his assistance in composing his History of the World. His works answer his character, viz. *Invitatorius Panegyricus*. Oxf. 1603. *Responsio pro Tortura Torti*. Lond. 1611. *Affertio pro Jure Regio*. Lond. 1613; with divers manuscripts in the Bodleian library, Oxford.

Hubert Walter was born at West Dereham, and being bred up under the famous Lord Chief-justice Glanville, became Dean of York in 1168. In 1188 he founded the abbey of West Dereham, and next year was preferred to the Bishopric of Salisbury. He was also one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and in 1193 became Archbishop of Canterbury; he was Lord Chancellor under Richard I. Legate to Pope Celestine IV. and Lord Chief-justice of all England. His uncle was Chief-butler of Ireland, from whom the noble family of Butler, Dukes of Ormond, are descended. No clergyman, before or after him,

him, had so great power and authority, and no man ever used it with greater prudence and moderation, (a character seldom to be met with) being Prime Minister of Richard I. and King John.

Sir William Fermor, of East Barham, was a very famous Knight in the reign of Henry VIII. and built there a most stately palace.

Sir Roger Townshend, Knt. of Rainham, was one of the Justices of the Common-pleas in the reign of Henry VII. He was entered a Student of Lincoln's-inn, and elected a Governor and Lent-reader of the same. In the 17th of Edward IV. he was called to the degree of Serjeant at Law; in 1480 summoned to be an Assisant to the House of Lords in Parliament; in the 1st of Edward V. King's Serjeant at Law, and next year he was appointed a Judge. He was Member in Parliament for Calne, in Wiltshire, and died November 9, 1493.

Sir Christopher Mims, and Sir John Narborough, Knts. were born at Cockthorpe, a small village near Wells, where also Sir Cloudefley Shovel drew his first breath. These three natives of Cockthorpe were great Admirals in their time.

Boadicea, Queen of the *Iceni*, held her court at her palace of Kenninghall: at the head of the Britons she attacked the Romans, burnt London, and massacred 70,000 of its inhabitants; but soon after being defeated by Suetonius, poisoned herself *anno Dni.* 59. History does not inform us where she was born.

Anne Boleyn, Queen Consort of Henry VIII. was born at Blickling, the daughter of Sir Thomas Boleyn, Earl of Wiltshire, by a daughter of the Duke of Norfolk; she was married November, 1532, was crowned June 1, 1533, tried by order of the King on a charge of incest with her brother, and, though not guilty, convicted, and beheaded May 14, 1536, aged 29.

Edwin, the Dane, came over with Canute, and marrying the heiress of the Saxon Lord Thoke, became Lord of Sharnbourne, which name he then took; but this estate being given by the Conqueror to William Earl Warren, he so ably pleaded his priority of right, and neutrality of conduct, in person before the Conqueror, that the King ordered the inheritance of Edwin de Sharnbourne to be restored to him. This is an instance of temerity of the subject, and justice of the Sovereign, not usual in those barbarous times. This very ancient family are lately extinct.

Of Sir Robert Walpole we need say nothing more than, that he was born at Houghton, August 26, 1674, and in 1700 was chosen Member for Lynn-Regis, for which place he served till 1742, excepting one session, 1711, when he was expelled the House. He filled the offices of a Lord of the Admiralty, Secretary of War, and Treasurer of the Navy, but was removed from his employments in 1710. He came again into office in 1714, but in April, 1717, resigned. In 1721 he held the same places again; was a Knight of the Bath, 1725; Knight of the Garter, 1726; a Governor of the Charter-house, 1727; and High-steward of Lynn-Regis, 1738.

In December, 1741, he resigned all his places at Court, and was created Earl of Orford, &c. and died in London, March 18, 1746, aged 70. In the hundred of Gallow the reader

reader will find a more particular account of the life and family of this great Statesman.

Persons of Note in this County, whose birth-place, or abode, are not known, or if known, not mentioned before.

Gilbert Berkley was a native of this county, descended of the ancient Barons of that name, as his arms shew. He was consecrated Bishop of Bath and Wells in the 1st of Elizabeth, and sat therein twenty-two years. He died of a lethargy, November 2, 1581, in the 80th year of his age, and lies buried on the north side of the communion-table in the Cathedral there.

John Towers, born in this county, Fellow of Queen's College, in Cambridge, and Chaplain to the Earl of Northampton, who bestowed on him the benefice of Castle-Ashby, in Northamptonshire, and further recommended him to his Majesty Charles I. to be his Chaplain, by which means he came to be first Dean, and then Bishop of Peterborough in 1638. He was one of the Protestant Bishops, and sent with the rest to the Tower, where they all continued (but the Bishops Moreton and Hall) eighteen weeks before they obtained their liberty; after which he betook himself to his Majesty at Oxford, and having remained there till the surrender of that place, he returned to Peterborough, where he found his revenues all seized, and the people so set against him, that he was continually alarmed with threatenings and molestations to the time of his death, which happened but twenty-one days before his Royal Master's martyrdom. He underwent many and great afflictions from the times, and felt great wants, having many

A a

children,

children, and little to support them; but he had learnt to bear with patience what Providence brought upon him, and died in obscurity, but was buried in the Cathedral.

William Ward, father of Humble Lord Ward, a wealthy goldsmith, of London, and jeweller to Queen Mary, was descended of an ancient family of that name in this county. He left a large estate to his son, Humble, much about the time that Charles I. fell into his distress by the unparalleled defection of his subjects, *anno* 1642, which this Gentleman taking as a seasonable opportunity of shewing both his duty as a subject, and gratitude as the son of his servant, sent several supplies of money to his Majesty, which the King having then no way to requite but conferring titles of honor, did, in consideration that he had married Frances, the niece and heiress of Edward Lord Dudley, first make him a Knight, at Oxford, January 24, 1643, and then a Baron by the name of Lord Ward of Birmingham, March 23 ensuing.

Sir Robert Venile, Knt. of whom Sir Richard Baker, *Chron. 3 Ed. III. page* 181, gives this account: "Here must not be forgotten Robert Venile, Knt. a Norfolk man, who when the Scots and English were ready to give battle, a certain stout champion of great stature, commonly called Tournhall, coming out of the Scotch army, challenged any Englishman to meet him in a single combat. This challenge Robert Venile accepted, and in his march towards the champion, meeting a black mastiff-dog, which waited on the champion, he suddenly with his sword cut him in two at the reins, and afterwards did more to the champion himself, cutting his head from his shoulders." Dr. Fuller tells us, "he could not by all his industry find
this

this relation of so famous a man in any other historian," and so the credit of it depends upon the author.

Edmund Gourney was born and benefited in this country, but the place is not known. He was bred in Queen's and Bennet's Colleges, Cambridge, where he commenced Bachelor of Divinity. He was an excellent scholar, and could be merry or serious as he pleased, but never was profane towards God, or injurious to his neighbour, in his jests, and so might be allowed to please himself, if he gave no one else cause of displeasure. He was a sound Antipapist, as his books against Transubstantiation, and upon the second Commandment, both of them learnedly and judiciously written, do testify. He died in the beginning of the civil wars.

Henry Walpool, elder brother to Michael and Richard Walpool, Jesuits, was educated at Cambridge, and then thought to be inclined to Puritanism, but being retired from that University, became a zealous Roman Catholic, and going to Rome, entered himself into the Society of Jesus in 1584, and being sent into England in 1593, to make converts, he was seized on at his first entry, and imprisoned at York, for denying the Queen's supremacy over the church of England, where while he lay, several books composed by him of a treasonable nature were seized, as *The Martyrdom of Edmund Campian*, &c. of which being convicted, he was hanged, drawn, and quartered there, April 17, 1595.

William Stafford, a Norfolk man born, and nobly descended, was a Student of Christ Church, Oxford. He was a Member of the House of Commons for a time, and wrote a little piece, intitled, *An orderly and plain Narration of the Beginning and Causes of this war, with a consci-*

tious Resolution against the Parliament Side. He died in Gloucester-shire, about *anno* 1683, *æt.* 90. He left a son, John, father of Richard Stafford, author of a book, intituled, *Of Happiness, &c.* Lond. 1689.

The Author of the *Magna Britannia*, from whom we have selected the aforefaid account of *Eminent Men*, has also a long list of persons whose zeal for the cause of Protestantism, during the furious reign of Queen Mary, subjected their persons and estates to dire persecution ; and, for their sufferings, are stiled martyrs. This detail is followed up by a train of afflictions, imprisonments, confiscations, maiming, burning, and all the evils concomitant with bigotry and superstition ; but we decline recording the particulars of that accursed inquisition, judging it more for the honor of humanity and religion to bury such diabolical proceedings in total oblivion.

Peers of Norfolk.

We have before observed, that this county gives titles to very few Peers of England. Many of the ancient Baronies are extinct, and the independent Gentlemen do not bask themselves in the sun-shine of *Court favor*, else titles might spring up like mushrooms.—The reign of James I. was the hot-bed of Nobility and Knighthood !

His Grace Charles Howard, Duke of Norfolk, is also Earl of Norfolk and Norwich ; and Baron Howard of Castle-Rising, in Norfolk.

His Grace Augustus Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Grafton, is Viscount Thetford, in Norfolk.

The Right Hon. George Walpole, Earl of Orford, is Viscount and Baron Walpole, and Baron of Houghton, in Norfolk.

The Right Hon. John Hobart, Earl of Buckinghamshire, is Baron Hobart of Blickling, in Norfolk.

The Right Hon. George Townshend, Viscount Townshend of Rainham, is also Baron Townshend of Lynn-Regis, in Norfolk

The Right Hon. Horatio Walpole, Baron Walpole of Wolterton, in Norfolk.

The Right Hon. Thomas de Grey, Baron Walsingham, in Norfolk.

The Peerages of Norfolk now extinct are,

N O R F O L K.

Hugh Bigot had a charter as Earl of Norfolk in the reign of Henry II. which, in the 35th of Edward I. reverted to the Crown; for want of heirs male.

Thomas Plantagenet, or de Brotherton, fifth son of Edward I. had this Earldom conferred on him, and he dying in the 12th of Edward III. without issue male, his daughter, Lady Margaret, was made Duchess of Norfolk for life, and died March 24, 1399.

Thomas Mowbray next inherited the Dukedom, but it was afterwards possessed by Richard Plantagenet, (in right of his wife) second son of Edward IV. who died without issue.

NORWICH.

N O R W I C H.

Sir Edward Denny, Baron Denny of Waltham, was created Earl of Norwich by Charles I. 1626, and died without heirs male.

George Goring, Baron Goring, nephew of Sir Edward Denny, was created Earl of Norwich by Charles I. 1644; but his sons failed in issue.

W A L S I N G H A M.

Melesina de Schulenbergh was created Baronefs of Walsingham, &c. April 7, 1722, by George I. She married the late Earl of Chesterfield, and died in the year 1780, without issue.

Y A R M O U T H.

Sir Robert Paston, Bart. of Paston and Oxnead, was created Baron Paston and Viscount Yarmouth by Charles II. August 19, 1673, and Earl of Yarmouth July 30, 1679; but his son, who succeeded him, died without male issue.

Amelia Sophia Walmoden was created Baronefs and Countess of Yarmouth, for life, by George II. April 4, 1740, and died October 26, 1765.

Besides these, we read of several Barons of this county who had summons to Parliament, whose titles are long since lost.

The title of Baron was called by the Saxons, Thane, and, in their language, signified *man*. Feudal Barons were the descendents of those Barons, amongst whom William the Conqueror divided the lordships and manors of this country,

try, to be held of him by Knight's service. Barons of Parliament were summoned to sit by the King's letter, which custom began in the reign of Henry III. and his 49th year, *anno Dni.* 1265, was the epoch of the House of Commons in England. The first Baron, or Peer, by patent, was created by Richard II. in his 2d year, 1379.

The dignity of Earl was given in England long before the Conquest. The first creation of Duke, by Edward III. March 17, 1336; of Viscount, by Henry VI. 1440.

Baronets of Norfolk extinct, with the Date of their Creation.

J A M E S I.

Hobart, of Intwood, May 22, 1611: created Baron Hobart and Earl of Buckinghamshire.

Knevet, of Buckenham, ditto.

Townshend, of Rainham, April 16, 1617: created Baron Lynn and Viscount Townshend.

Clere, of Ormesby, February 27, 1620.

Yelverton, of Rougham, May 31, 1620.

Barkham, of South-acre, June 28, 1623.

Corbet, of Sprowston, July 4, 1623.

C H A R L E S I.

Drury, of Riddleworth, May 7, 1627.

L'Estrange, of Hunstanton, June 1, 1629.

Holland, of Quidenham, June 15, 1629.

Paston, of Oxnead, June 8, 1641: created Baron Paston and Earl of Yarmouth.

Palgrave, of Northwood-Barningham, June 24, 1641.

Hare, of Stow-Bardolph, July 23, 1641.

Potts, of Mannington, August 14, 1641.

Pettus,

Pettus, of Rackheath, September 23, 1641.
Crane, of Wood-Rising, March 20, 1642.
Denny, of Gillingham, June 3, 1642.

C H A R L E S II.

Ward, of Bixley, December 19, 1660.
Bacon, of Gillingham, February 7, 1661.
Dereham, of Weil Dereham, June 8, 1661.
Bickley, of Attleburgh, September 3, 1661.
Gerhard, of Langford, August 16, 1662.
Cooke, of Broome-hall, June 29, 1663.
Gaudy, of West-Harling, July 13, 1663.
D'Oyley, of Shottisham, July 29, 1663.
Bateman, of How-hall, August 31, 1664.
Glean, of Hardwick, March 6, 1665.
Robinson, of Dereham-Grainge.

G E O R G E I.

Turner, of Warham, April 27, 1727.

*Baronets of Norfolk extant, with the Date
of their Creation.*

J A M E S I.

Sir Edmund Bacon, of Redgrave, in Suffolk, since of Garboldisham, now of Raveningham, Premier Baronet of England, May 22, 1611.
Sir John Wodehouse, of Wilberhall, now of Kimberley, ditto.
Sir Charles Mordaunt, of Little Massingham, now of Walton, in Warwickshire, ditto.
Sir Henry Mackworth, of Lynn-Regis, now of London, June 4, 1619.

Sir John Berney, of Park-hall, in Reedham, now of Kirby-Bedon, May 5, 1620.

Sir William Jerningham, of Coffey, October, 16, 1621.

C H A R L E S I.

Sir Edward Adley, of Melton-Constable, January 21, 1641.

Sir William Cattleton, of St. Edmund's Bury, Suffolk, now of Hingham, August 9, 1641.

Sir William Kemp, of Giffing, now of Aylsham, March 14, 1642.

C H A R L E S II.

Sir Richard Bedingsfield, of Oxburgh, January 2, 1660.

G E O R G E I.

Sir Lambert Blackwell, of Sprowston, July 16, 1718.

G E O R G E II.

Sir Thomas Beauchamp Proctor, of Langley, February 20, 1745.

Sir Harbord Harbord, of Gunton, March 22, 1764.

Sir Martin Browne Folkes, of Hillington-hall, May 3, 1774.

Sir Alexander Leith, of Burgh St. Peter, November 11, 1775.

Sir Henry Peyton, of Nairborough, August 24, 1776.

Baronets were first established by James I. 1611, who created ninety in one day, May 22, *to raise money*. This is the only hereditary title below a Peer, and seems to answer to the feudal Baron of earlier times, when there were also Barons of Parliament, and Barons by patent.

The honor of Knighthood was first instituted in England *anno Dni.* 540; and in the 39th of Henry III. 1255, all that had fifteen pounds a year were *obliged* to be Knighted, or pay a fine to be excused. The title of Knight-banneret was first given by Conan, who commanded the Roman legions in England, 383, and was much esteemed, but is now obsolete. Knights-simple, or Bachelors, *Equites Aurati*, or *Milites*, do commonly receive that honor for some personal desert. Knights of the Garter are the chief order in England, and were founded by Edward III. 1350: this high honor is seldom conferred but on Princes, Peers, and persons of great eminence. Knights of the Bath were instituted by Henry IV. *anno* 1399, and is now the only military order in England. Knights of Nova-Scotia were established after the charter of that colony was granted by James I. 1621. Some of those Knights are now resident in England.

Of religious orders we find Knights Hospitallers to be the first, about 1092;—Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, in 1113;—and Knights Templars, in 1128. The latter were abolished by Edward II. in 1313, and their estates given to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, who were also suppressed in England by Henry VIII. *anno Dni.* 1540.

A List of Persons Names who were fit and qualified to be made Knights of the Royal Oak, with the Value of their Estates, anno Dni. 1660†.*

N O R F O L K.				£.
William Paston, Esq. of Paston,	-	-	-	800
Sr. Charles Waldegrave, of Stanninghall, Knt.				
(afterwards Bart.)	-	-	-	2000
Christopher Bedingsfield, Esq. of Wighton,	-	-	-	800
Robert Wright, Esq.	-	-	-	1000
Thomas Wright, Esq. of Kilverstone,	-	-	-	1000
John Windham, Esq. of Felbrigg,	-	-	-	3500
John Coke, Esq.	-	-	£	1000
John Nabbes, Esq.	-	-	-	2000
Captain Henry Steward,	-	-	-	1000
Sir Joseph Payne, of Norwich, Knt.	-	-	-	1000
John Hobart, Esq. of Blickling and Intwood,	-	-	-	1000
John Kendall, Esq. of Thetford,	-	-	-	1000
Sir Thomas Meddowe, of Yarmouth, Knt.	-	-	-	2000
Christopher Jug, Esq.	-	-	-	1500
Richard Nixon, Esq.	-	-	-	1000
Thomas Garrad, Esq. of Longford (afterwards Bart.)	-	-	-	1000
B b 2				Osborne

* From a M. S. of the late Peter Le Neve. Esq. Norroy.

† This order was intended by Charles II. as a reward to several of his followers; and the Knights of it were to wear a silver medal, with a device of the King in the oak, pendant to a ribbon about their necks; but it was thought proper to lay it aside, lest it might create heats and animosities, and open those wounds afresh, which at that time were thought prudent should be concealed, and as no list of them was ever published in Norfolk, we thought such a curiosity would be acceptable.

Total of the persons in England qualified, 687.

Osburne Clarke, Esq.	-	-	-	1000
Valentine Saunders, Esq.	-	-	-	600
John Tasburgh, Esq.	-	-	-	600
Lawr. Oxborow, Esq. of Hackbech-hall, in Lynnheth,				800

* * * The Editor of this GENERAL History of Norfolk had prepared materials for an enquiry into the derivation of the names of towns, and of some principal families:—A glossary, or short explanation of technical and provincial terms of law and custom:—The most remarkable tenures and customs by which lands, &c. are held:—Proverbs, phrases, sayings, local terms, sentences, &c. peculiar to this county:—Eminent men now living, or lately deceased; and some other articles of *useful* knowledge, which he intended to have added to those given in the preceding pages; but he found the impatience of subscribers so great, and the clamor of booksellers so incessant, that he, though very unwillingly, gave up the most pleasing task of affording *public* instruction, to the narrow and mercenary considerations of a *few*, who pay more regard to *time* than *matter*, and who think a writer has nothing more to do than to *deliver* his work the moment he has made his proposals known; or of some who, by way of Indulgence, only require to be supplied as *readily* as they can peruse it.

————— *Quid aliat formetque poetam.*

HOR.

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